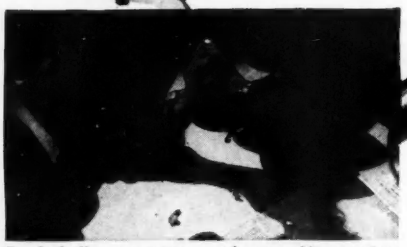
TECHNOLOGY DEPT.

JUNE
1946

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

"There is no more accurate rim fire ammunition in the world than Peters match 22's!"

says "DOC" PETERS



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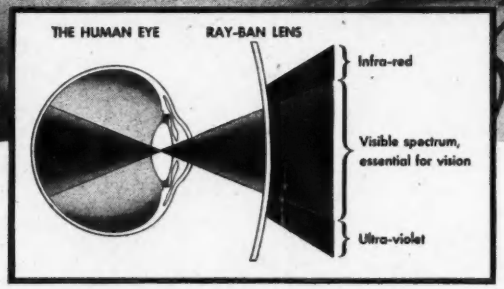

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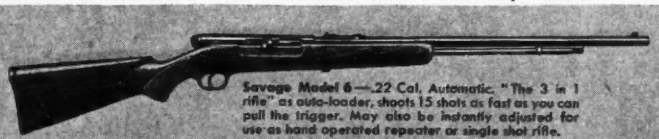

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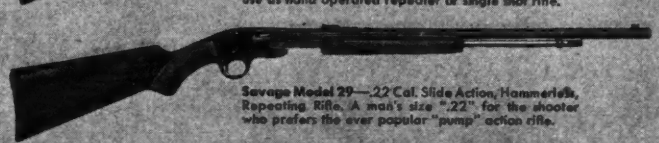

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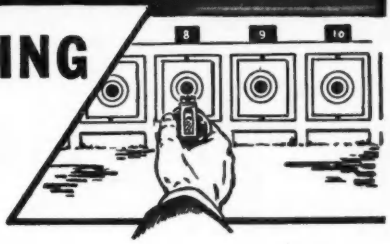

Even to an arms maker reconversion has its problems — but we're working night and day to speed up the day when your dealer will have the new K-Masterpieces.

Developed from the sensational K-22 Masterpiece of 1940, there are now *three* Masterpieces — the K-22, K-32 and K-38 — a matched set of companion guns that give you all these great features . . .

A Ribbed Barrel for finer balance and greater weight up front

The new S&W "High-Speed" Hammer with wide, deep-checked spur

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The S&W Micrometer Click Sight for absolutely positive adjustment on both windage and elevation — can not shoot loose or change setting from the vibration of firing

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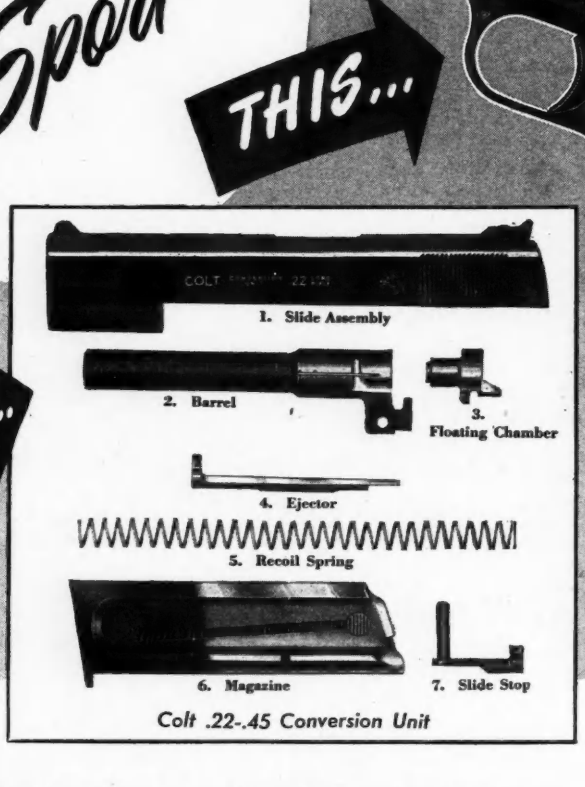

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The
AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of The National Rifle Association of America

VOLUME 94 — NUMBER 6

JUNE 1946

From the Editor:

Paper trouble mentioned last month is nothing compared to this issue. The engravers, printers, the RIFLEMAN staff, have the magazine ready for the presses . . . the first issue since the war with every expectation of reaching readers on the first of the month. But paper mills, feeling the weight of coal and chemical shortages, start shutting down. A substitute paper is located, only to find it may not arrive if a walkout follows the five-day railway strike truce. It's fairly certain we'll miss our target date of June 1st. We'll only hope it isn't too far out, meanwhile, keeping our sights set for another first . . . in July.

☆ ☆ ☆

By way of inaugurating a new column, we might go into a few of the changes and improvements being made or planned for RIFLEMAN readers. It all boils down to the fact that you, the readers, are the folks who set the pace. The exigencies of war, unfortunately, required that NRA staffmen forego to a great extent the usual pleasurable, personal contacts with shooters and clubs . . . by mail and by travel. That condition now happily ended, we'd like to hear from you.

So, reactivated with this issue . . . a bigger and better "Letters" page under the new title, *Ricochets,* in which all members have equal opportunity to air their views, register their complaints, and present *constructive* criticism on any subject of interest to shooters. . . .

And for the juniors and their instructors, a new Junior column which, we hope, will help supply the needs of our future champions for news of their own activities . . . competitions, qualifications, training hints, and all the rest.

☆ ☆ ☆

Always high on our list of summer problems is old bugaboo Safety, the subject of this month's editorial. A recent visit to the Pittsburgh area reveals that with the coming of Spring there has blossomed a new era of boldness for the teen-aged plinker . . . hiding in surrounding hills and peppering moving automobiles on the roads below.

First step in combating the ignorance of the juvenile plinker was taken by the Rosedale Sportsman's Association . . . planning a free picnic to all youngsters in the affected section, with shooting instruction and movies, including the NRA's newly released 16 mm. color, safety film, "Trigger Happy Harry."

☆ ☆ ☆

Attention, Colorado members: Watch for a bill to be introduced in the next session of the State legislature to establish a "Sullivan Law" in Colorado. Doing the introducing . . . State Senator Edwin A. Rogers, of Westcliffe, who "knows all the answers."

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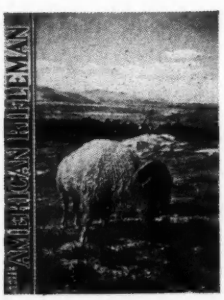

COVER

Famed wildlife photographer William L. Finley photographed the bull buffalo for our cover, which serves as a companion piece to Arthur J. Hunt's story in this issue, "This Buffalo Business." The Kodachrome was taken on the National Bison Range, Montana, where this fine American game animal still dominates the plains. To forestall questions about the color of this one, our bull is an albino—an unusual buffalo rarity.

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They're Your Kids, Mister!

SCHOOL is out! There go the kids!

Where are they going? What are they going to get into before the school bell rings again? A few of the luckier ones will go into summer camps, into the congested but wholesome activities of some Boys' Club, or will take up their share of the work load on the farm.

Most of them are going into the city streets, out to the city dumps, off into the suburban wood lots and fields.

Some of them, giving vent to normal, healthy, animal spirits, unguided by sympathetic adult experience, will drown in forbidden swimming holes. Some will rush under the crushing wheels of modern traffic. Some, seeking the acclaim of their mates, will transgress the grownups' rules of propriety and will join the list of juvenile "delinquents". Some will venture, untrained, unwarned, to play with forbidden weapons. There will be accidental shootings. And for every such incident there will be a community reaction against the sale and use of firearms.

What are you going to do about it, Mister? These kids, you know, are the America of tomorrow. You may be childless but you have got to live with these youngsters and their parents—not only tomorrow but today. Do you want to pay for a bigger police force? Do you want more antifirearms laws? Do you want to lie, sleepless, looking into the black night at the drawn, parchment-white features of a kid who ran under your car in the traffic stream? Don't you want to spend your old age in a nation governed by clear-headed, straight-thinking, courageous younger men?

You can't safely pass the buck, Mister. Maybe you can't contribute much to the local Boys' Club. Maybe you can't serve as a Scout Master. But two things you *can do*. As a *citizen* you can demand of your city fathers that they furnish more off-the-street play areas and supervised junior recreation programs. As a *sportsman* you can take *one* kid into your gun room and give him the greatest thrill of his young life while you tell him the story of your guns, how they work and how the real sportsman always handles firearms safely, sanely, and expertly. You can take *one* kid out to the range or into some safe spot in the woods or fields and teach him how to shoot. You can prod your local sportsmen's club into instituting a real junior program of instruction in shooting, conservation, sportsmanship, that will contribute mightily to the reduction in traffic accidents, shooting accidents, swimming accidents and "juvenile delinquency." Perhaps you can even awaken your community to a knowledge of the fact that the very term "juvenile delinquency" is a phrase coined by adults to cover up their *own* delinquency in neglecting the youngsters they have brought into the world!

School's out. The kids are spreading out everywhere. They are getting into everything. If they get into trouble it's *your* fault, Mister!—C.B.L.

W. J. Schoonmaker; H. Armstrong Roberts

JUNE DAYS MEAN CHUCK SHOOTING . . . A WARM-UP FOR NOVEMBER'S DEER HUNT

IT'S VARMINT SEASON!

By HOWARD LE VAN

THINK YOU CAN STILL FIND those old chuck holes . . . or the spots where the crows used to nest? Then gas up the old buggy, get out there, and try your luck on those really tough shots. It's varmint season again.

The game is small, the range is long, the loads are light . . . but it's a man's sport all the way. If you don't think so, you've never tried it . . . and if you've never tried it, you ought to.

A varmint . . . (The real term is vermin, you know, but don't use it. As the Old Coach once said, "it makes me scratch.") . . . A varmint, says Webster's, is a noxious small animal or bird. Also a parasitical insect, or offensive person, but we're not interested in them. Our little group would include such acknowledged varmints as the crow, coyote, woodchuck, prairie dog, jack rabbit, western ground squirrel, Cooper's hawk and goshawk, in case you didn't know. Their usefulness on the earth is conjectural, and they do make good hunting.

All of the thrills are there . . . of combing the countryside for sign of den or nest . . . of stalking noiselessly, upwind, out of sight to a vantage point . . . of picking out the half-hidden target with scope or binoculars . . . and of the satisfaction of the one deadly shot, true to the spot where the cross hairs intersected.

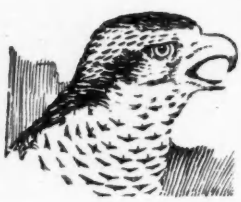
What does the varminter stow in his car as he prepares for the year's first outdoor shoot? A sandwich shoved into a hip pocket takes care of the stomach, so attention is devoted to shooting equipment.

The rifle is a .220 Swift, but it could easily be the Hornet, Bee, Lovell, or Varminter. It is laid on the car seat with the same care a loving mother bestows on her child. Its beautiful, precise eight power scope is protected from hard knocks by a layer of sheepskin and a leather jacket. Thrown on the floor is a salvaged Army coverall and a pair of old leather gloves. It's hard to beat the G.I. coverall as a shield from the fantastically sharp eyes of Corvus the crow, and the tough material will stand up well against briars and sharp stones. It is unwise to wear flashy clothes of white, yellow, or red for small game hunting in uncongested areas.

The ten power binoculars, borrowed, stolen . . . or if possible, paid for . . . are removed from the case and placed on the front seat ready for instant use while driving to the intended spot.

And a crow call goes along, not that it ever does any good, but because our varmint hunter happens to own it. Some day he might hit the right combination on the darn thing and be paid for previous hours of unsuccessful squawking. Twenty rounds of ammo with 48-grain bullets lie in a breast pocket.

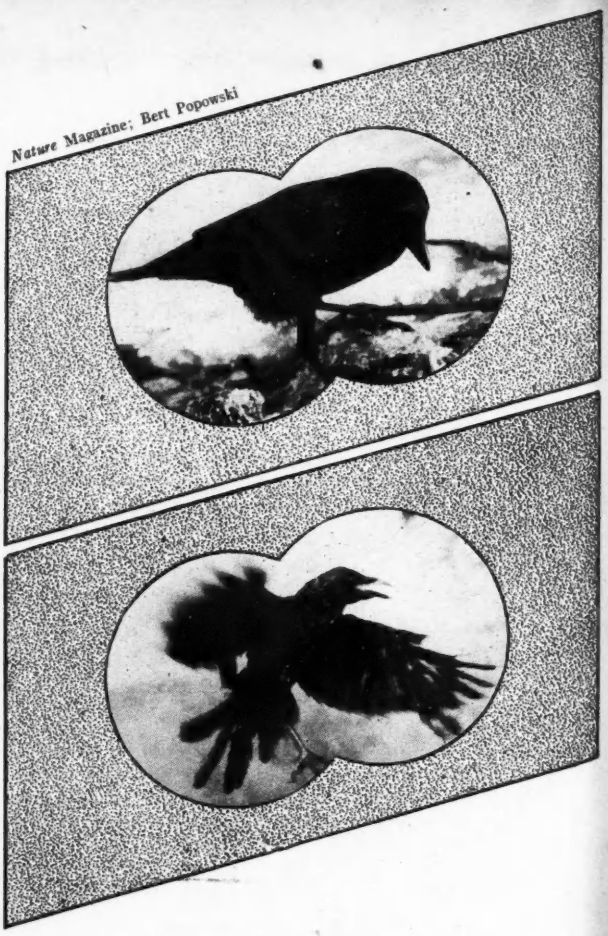
His route could be up along the river from Susquehanna, a town in northeastern Pennsylvania. On his right lie river flats covered with lush grass, and the hillsides on his left reach up over bountiful "chuck" territory. The lightly grazed slopes end at the periphery of woods which cap the hills on either side of the majestic Susquehanna Valley. From experience he knows that these wooded hills hold promise of the Cooper's hawk and hundreds of crows.



Against the bright green of the river flat, two black spots stand out in the distance. A look of craftiness slips over his face as he realizes that it is too late to stop now. Instead, he passes as they feed 150 yards from the road, and continues driving until hidden from them by a roll in the ground. A natural, covered approach offers itself . . . a brushy fencerow which leads to a perfect firing point. But then— a hearty laugh, crow style, announces the presence of a "sentinel" that probably had been watching him since he first adopted that wise expression.

His face burning at being taken on such an old wheeze, the varminter slides back behind the wheel, glad that the gang had not witnessed his naive blunder. With a promise not to repeat the mistake he hurries past some good territory to reach the "old stampings" sooner.

His car behind him, he climbs a hillside ravine where a tumultuous spring-fed stream shouts its presence under a dense cover of hemlock and maple. A set-up like this is perfect . . . the sound of the stream to cover the noise of the approach while the hunter is screened by the canopy of trees. From a vantage



point he looks over 400 yards of rolling pasture land, sprinkled with chuck dens and occasional trees. This is a tonic for stuffy nerves! You don't have to have been "working too hard" to enjoy this game. Anyone will relish the relaxation of sitting back against a tree as he scans the hillside with knee-braced binoculars.

There are some of last year's dens, but it pays to be careful and take advantage of any new holes which are within range. Grouped shadows cross the field swiftly and silently. Lifted eyes watch and mark down a flock of twenty crows as they settle in the edge of woods three-quarters of a mile away. Remember that for later . . . now back to the game at hand. Ought to search out that wet depression where the clover is so thick. There he is! A lazy waddle of brown eases into a position, hidden by a clump of green. Let's see, pick a half-way point and try to judge the distance. The system doesn't matter; just have the range estimated before he changes position. A little more than football field length, or 100 yards, lies between the shooter and the mid-point. Settle for a total of 225 yards. Wind light on the right cheek and the mirage is gentle. Watching for the rodent's reappearance, he decides not to adjust the quarter-minute clicks which have been set for 200 yards. Unable to wait longer for the chuck to sit up or change feeding stations, our varminter gives a shrill whistle as the sling takes the Swift's weight. Almost as he closes his lips the egg shaped

head pops up, almost at the junction of cross hairs. One inch high and a shade to the right as the rifle jumped.

The sting of the early defeat at the hands of the crow is washed away as a back flip throws the chuck against a fence post where he remains still.

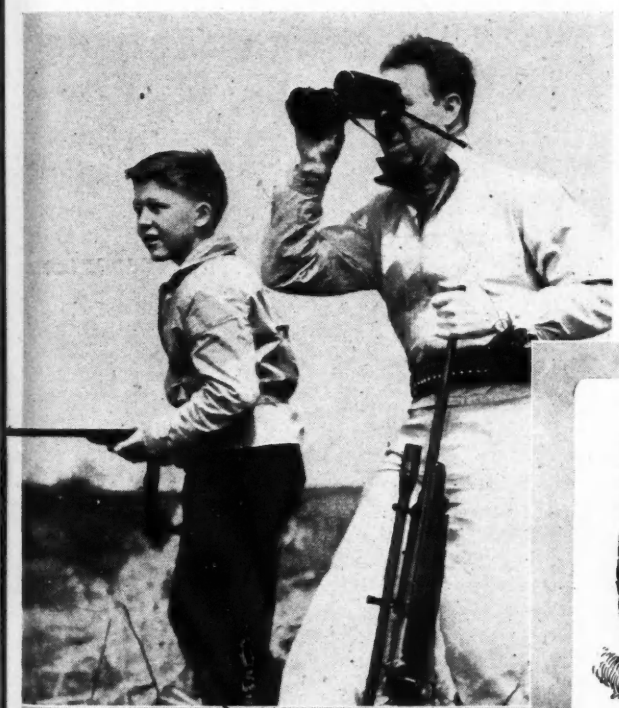
After congratulating himself, our hunter notices two other heads that had sprung up at a greater distance when the rifle sounded. But rather than take more from this section, he decides to ease up through that strip of cover to the flock of crows still undisturbed.

Short-winded from winter inactivity, he feels the strain of crawling to the junction of stream cover and the edge of woods. Resting there, he picks up one tree-mounted guard as the main flock feeds on the ground. He arrives at his plan . . . to move within range and wound one on the ground, a trick which often has kept an entire flock in range while the hunter cracks down on members momentarily resting in nearby trees. If able to remain hidden while they scold and attempt to discover the cause of their friend's trouble, several minutes of fast and exciting shooting is on deck.

In order that he might not be taken in as before, extreme care goes into the next two hundred yards of travel. At last, he is well within range and an excellent vantage point lies only twenty feet away, just across an old logging trail. After several minutes of fruitless tree searching he decides to cross the trail and go into action . . . but then the crack of a twig 50 yards up the trail makes him freeze. The strong feeling that no squirrel or lesser animal was holding his attention, directs the crouching figure to study every shadow and profile on either side of the trail, choked almost to extinction by dense growth. Several times he looks at that splotch of rust, pointed out by one of the few sunbeams aggressive enough to penetrate the oak foliage. The fine optics of his binoculars pay for themselves as he makes out two pointed ears and the black tip of a nose. He is staring into the face of his first red fox!

After what seems an hour of slow moving, the cross hairs settle just under the fox's left ear. At the shot the fox catapults into the path and the air is filled with frenzied crows, thoroughly disgusted, that their sentries were guilty of being asleep on duty. But as the hunter looks over the number one chicken and pheasant criminal, he is glad to give the crows another chance. He'll be back.

Why not join the game? Varmint Season is here! ♦ ♦ ♦



This Buffalo Business

By ARTHUR J. HUNT

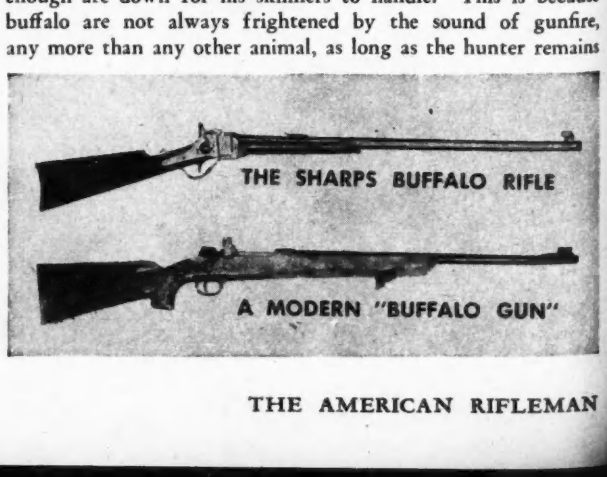
EVERY TIME I READ A BUFFALO STORY, with its awed retelling of the uncanny, unerring successes of the old-time hunter and his magic buffalo gun, I feel a little ill! I've probably read most of the buffalo stories written in the last ten years, and they all seem to follow the same general pattern. Someone is either putting the far-distant memories of a buffalo hunter on paper, with a few ideas of his own, or it is a story by someone who has a .40 or .45 caliber Sharps that *might* have killed buffalo and who writes of his fearful tack driver and its use against the big animals. After trying my hand at killing the beasts, I wonder how deadly and efficient those old guns really were.

As we all know, the American bison was on the protected list before the turn of the century. Few men are alive today who have actually engaged in hunting the big beasts. Buffalo "hunting" is, in a sense, a misnomer. It could better have been buffalo "slaughter." No particular skill was required. This last remark will raise many an eyebrow, but read on and see if I cannot prove my point.

We can agree here and now that our buffalo is no parlor pet. It is more than possible that the only reason more men were not killed hunting them was because of differences in terrain and distance from which they were shot. Let us consider this mighty buffalo shooter of the old-timer's day. He gathers himself, his sixteen-pound .45 caliber Sharps "Old Reliable," a half-dozen tired Indians, and a wagon, and sets forth to where some protecting hill or plateau overlooks a herd of buffalo. Here he sets up his outfit. By this, I mean he walks boldly up to within 100, 150, or possibly 200 yards of some peaceful buffalo. He finds a shade tree if he can, puts his rifle rest into the ground, gets his shells out, and goes to work on the game. He gets two or three dollars per hide, so he doesn't want to ruin this one by shooting it up. He tries a head shot, usually, or a brain shot, which is commendable, but buffalo brains are hard to find; they are small and surrounded by great thicknesses of hair, hide, flesh, and bone.

He sets his triggers and starts the 405-grain slug on its way. It is no secret that a modern loading of the .45-70-405 sends the missile out of the barrel at better than 1,300 feet per second. Likewise it is no secret that this slug has slowed to 1,160 feet at 100 yards, with but 1,210 pounds of striking force.

Being at least a fair shot, our hunter hits the buffalo where he wants to, in the section close to the brain, and Mr. Buffalo looks sick. He *is* sick, but far from dead, and he will not die for the next 500 to 1,000 yards, depending on the location of the shot. The hunter then concentrates on other buffalo until enough are down for his skinners to handle. This is because buffalo are not always frightened by the sound of gunfire, any more than any other animal, as long as the hunter remains



THE SHARPS BUFFALO RIFLE

A MODERN "BUFFALO GUN"

fairly well concealed. By the time he decides to quit shooting he may have killed ten, twenty, or 200 buffalo, depending again on the size of the herd and the size of his organization. It is not wise to let buffalo lie long, for they form gas quickly.

Now, here is a point I want to bring out. You will recall I did not say our shooter put each buffalo down cold with each shot, though they were all head shots. He waited for them to die, and die they did. I have never read a story in which any buffalo hunter can claim to have put a buffalo down for keeps with one shot from any of the old black-powder jobs, be they Sharps "Old Reliables," Remingtons, or old-issue Springfields, which I personally feel killed most of America's buffalo. Or with today's .30-'06! Even the '06 isn't capable of doing the job consistently.

I recently had an opportunity to shoot some surplus buffalo from a herd of over 200 head. I tried the .270 Winchester, the .30-'06, and the 9 mm. Mauser. The results were very interesting and were definitely the opposite of what one might imagine. These buffalo were to be butchered, so I was to spoil as little meat as possible. Also the robes were wanted so it left me with no alternative save shooting them in the head.

Feeling that it would be child's play, I rode out onto the range where the buffalo were feeding. They showed no apparent concern for our little one-ton truck or for me, when I stepped out with a word of caution from the overseer. The first victim was

a bull about three years old, weighing in the neighborhood of 1,200 pounds. He was standing broadside at about fifty yards, no more. Now, these buffalo aren't accustomed to seeing people any more than were those of the '70s. But buffalo are curious and they will stand still a long time.

I was going to try the 9 mm. because it had set triggers. The shot was to be made offhand, and I sighted for the bullet to hit just below the horn and toward the eye about two or three inches. I believe it would have been perfect had the buffalo not moved forward just as I shot. I hit him hard—all 280 grains of bullet, driven at 2,250 feet per second and with a striking force at the muzzle of 3,200 foot-pounds. Now, at fifty yards this bullet wouldn't lose much of its power, but when it hit, the

"The bull wobbled in the mud and got up . . ."

buffalo merely staggered, shook his head, and started to run. Those babies start in high gear, running in a very stiff-legged way. By this time I was ready for a second shot and touched it off. The bull took about two steps and fell with a thud I could feel up through my boots. After he fell a couple of the other buffalo, smelling the blood, came over, sniffed at the fallen bull and in time moved on.

Investigation showed that the first bullet had struck just under the horn, entered the skull for about three-quarters of an inch and bounced off! Mind you—bounced off! A 280-grain slug going 2,250 feet per second, with 3,200 foot-pounds, bouncing off because the hide and skull are just too tough. What kind of animal is this? I'd heard of shooters with .35 Remingtons and .300 Savages shooting five and six times into a heart cavity and not putting one down, but this was lying right in front of me. It was almost unbelievable. The second shot had gone completely through the skull, entering much farther toward the eye and a long way from the brain. I believe the reason this animal died so quickly was the effect of all that weight of bullet, plus the terrific striking force of 3,200 pounds, on his brain. Now, I can't be convinced I would have done nearly so well with a .45-70 or its smaller sister the .40-70 Sharps.

Our next buffalo, another bull, proved to be harder to kill

WHAT ABOUT BUFFALO HUNTING? AUTHOR HUNT PROVES, TO HIS OWN SATISFACTION AT LEAST, THAT THEIR ABILITY TO ABSORB LEAD PUTS THEM DEFINITELY ON THE "DANGEROUS GAME" LIST . . . .

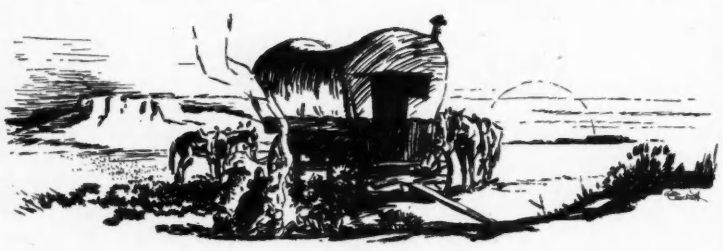
than the first. I had changed guns and was using a very fine DCM .30-'06 with 180-grain bullets. After picking him out of the herd, I took a good bead right between the eyes and a little high. At approximately thirty-five yards the first shot put him flat on his nose. Both front feet were out from under him, but he was still up on his rear. He wobbled in the mud and got up again, and stood there waiting for the next one. He promptly got it, and though he didn't go down again, he wobbled as though he would momentarily. However, after a few seconds,

I decided he wouldn't fall despite the drunken staggerings and, as he turned his head, let him have it near the eye. That did it. He collapsed in a heap. Both bullets that hit him head-on had crushed a terrific amount of skull. It is hard to imagine anything standing on its feet after shots like that at such close range. The third shot didn't go completely through, but had been the straw that turned the trick. If this third shot had not been fired, he probably would have lived many minutes more.

I was beginning to wonder how any of the hunters killed these things on the spot. As you can see, they didn't—not with one shot, anyhow. Buffalo number three proved to be the worst actor of them all. He was a small bull, lighter than the first two, and a little cautious. We couldn't drive too close to him, so I took the 9 mm. again and slipped off the truck. I managed to walk much closer to him than the others could get with the truck. He was watching me, and after a while he decided I was close enough. With a snort, he turned and walked away, and stopped and turned for another look some twenty or thirty yards beyond. Being within 150 yards, I decided to let go. He was still watching me, so another between-the-eyes shot looked best. I set the triggers and held. I held as best I could, letting go at the right time, and never saw anything drop as fast as he did. That 9 mm. must have been like a freight train. Pleased as all get out at the shot, I turned my back on him to see if the truck was coming, when the boys in the back yelled for me to watch out, and pointed in the fallen buffalo's direction. I turned and saw to my amazement that the buffalo was under full steam and headed my way. It's a good thing I long ago forced myself to become automatic in the use of a firearm, for after my first shot I had worked the bolt, putting a live round in the chamber, and snapped the safety up. All I had to do was flick the safety off and give it to him. He slid upon impact of the bullet, and came on again. The third shot put him down; he rolled over and got up, running in the opposite direction to stop broadside. I could see the blood running from his nose and head. Taking aim, I let go for another head shot, which put him down for keeps.

If I had thought the previous buffalo were shot up and hard to kill, I was wrong. They were easy. This baby had four 9 mm. slugs in him and all head shots. It doesn't take much thinking to imagine how unpleasant it would be to jump one of these tough actors in a thicket and not be armed with a rifle of sufficient strength to put him down right then. You can more easily understand why the British use their Magnums and double-barreled rifles of tremendous size and power on African buffalo. They know what to expect if they shoot at fifty, sixty, or even 100 feet, and don't kill them with the first or second shot. It's an entirely different story when you snipe at game at ranges from 100 yards and beyond.

Our last buffalo for the day was an old cow of fair proportions. I decided to use the .270 on her, with 130-grain O.P.E. bullets. I might as well have used a BB gun. It was another case of filling her full of lead. Remember, these buffalo were all shot in the head. No body shots were taken. We had a little trouble with this one, too; we couldn't get her away from the main herd so when she did walk a few feet toward the outside, I stepped out and, using a squat position, lined up the crosshairs of my 330, the .270 being the only scope-equipped gun I had with me. My first shot caught her high on the head and almost knocked her down, but after getting hold of herself she walked a few steps toward me and I shot her again; this time she turned and started for the center of the main herd, which was getting under way to clear out. I put a quick side shot into her head as she turned, but nothing happened. I was unable to fire another for by this time she was deep in the herd, which started to mill around her as if to protect her. Not wanting to let her suffer any more than absolutely necessary, I kept watching her through the scope and, after a few seconds, got a small opening and let go. She collapsed in the middle of the herd. This must have startled them, for off they ran.



My buffalo shooting was over for the time, and as we sat around the table eating, of all things, buffalo meat, the discussion led naturally to the days of the buffalo hunter and the Indian. It was there that I began forming my opinions. I believe buffalo can be killed easily enough with one shot if you wait for them to die from bleeding, but to kill them outright at distances up to 300 yards—brother, you need a real gun, and no black-powder job, either! Sure, someone will remark about how Grandpa Dudley killed one dead with only one shot from his .25 caliber Stevens rim fire, but that doesn't make it a buffalo gun.

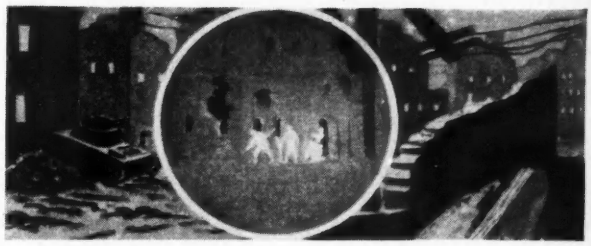
The reason we have our so-called buffalo guns is that at the time they were being used, they were the most accurate rifle, among the most powerful, and there wasn't much else to buy. One more thing! Few of us fully realize what a four-footed monster the buffalo really is. He cannot be domesticated and though he will stand for hours in one spot without moving, the next instant he may trample you to death. He is curious, fast, and deadly. But how many of our great buffalo hunters came close enough to one to find out? True, the Indians used to ride alongside running buffalo and shoot them in the head. But it is a known fact that buffalo running in a herd follow the ones in front, who follow the leader, who runs in a straight line. It is practically impossible to turn a buffalo stampede, and many buffalo have perished over cliffs because they couldn't stop in time. The buffalo behind them followed blindly, and pushed them over. A battle between young buffalo bulls is a ferocious thing to behold. They have tremendous leverage with their short horns and have little feeling in the front of their heads. The hair on the face of a buffalo will run four inches through, and the hide at least half an inch.

Don't get me wrong. I still don't doubt the tales of buffalo slaughter during the prerailroad days of our old west. I do wonder, though, at the efficiency of that slaughter. If my experiences mean anything, America's original buffalo herds were destroyed by methods that would make today's sportsman-hunter hang his head. Unless our 1946 breed of buffalo are a lot tougher than their great-great-great-grandfathers, we've been kidding ourselves about the efficiency of one of our most distinctive, history-shrouded American arms. ◆ ◆ ◆

The Amazing SNIPERSCOPE

Sniper's-eye view of street scene in daylight.

The same street at night, without Sniperscope.



After-dark view of scene through Sniperscope.

THE HEAVY BLANKET OF NIGHT has been a source of friendly concealment for thousands of fighting men since the beginning of time. Ancient man developed the technique used by the hair-hunting Iroquois, who snaked their way to a besieged stockade while its night-blinded defenders vainly tried for a glimpse of the enemy before dawn's attack. An approach without sound remained as the only problem of such bloody-minded and body-painted tacticians.

This typical use of night's veil in black-out warfare remained unchanged until early in 1944 when, on the island of Okinawa, the Nip caught the full force of our foot-soldier's new tool, the Sniperscope. Pictured on these pages is the weird instrument, developed and completed late in 1943 by the Engineer Board at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Its outward appearance is that of a swollen telescope sight *(Continued on page 32)*

For observation of night-shrouded enemy activity, carbine may be removed. When used this way, outfit is called "Snooperscope."

Complete Sniperscope with back pack weighs about 28 pounds. Scope and infra-red light source are wired to batteries in man's pack.

You too can miss coyotes

By JIM BERRYMAN

ADOLF HITLER WAS A SAD-SACK SOLDIER, a punk paper hanger, and a putrid politician . . . so I was informed some years ago by a delegation of pipe-puffing, suds-swallowing Tyrolean gents in Innsbruck. Yet he almost became the supreme boss of Europe and neighboring suburban areas. Only a few million tons of U. S. equipment and a couple of million American riflemen blocked his campaign to establish "The New Order." But some of the man's ideologies seem to be incubating with an amazing vitality . . . one in particular has found fertile valleys right here in our own great land! This is: *No man can qualify as an expert in his chosen field until he has become definitely established as a failure!* This New Order of Yankee success is flowering in all fields of endeavor. For example: One of Gotham's outstanding drama critics has never been able to get a single, one-act brain child of his produced by even the most hayseedy of the barn players. A sensationally successful seer on advice to the heartsick has been divorced three times. And there's a first-rate, big league manager who couldn't establish himself as a good minor league player.

So . . . as of current date, I am *America's No. 1 authority on coyote shooting!*

Having reached this full realization of my absolute supremacy in the fine art of throwing lead at the West's pesky little predator, I deem it wise to herewith record substantial proof of my unquestionable qualifications for the exalted position with a view toward forestalling any possible future contention!

IT TAKES SPECIAL SKILL TO MISS LIKE A MASTER. FOR VERY ACCURATE MISSING, THE AUTHOR RECOMMENDS A SCOPE

First of all, I made an exhaustive study of the coyote. I found that his scientific name is *Canis latrans* . . . right away I knew that anything with a monicker like that should be eliminated—and fast! I learned that he is a member, not in good standing, of the North American dog family and ranges from Canada to Guatemala. Not as large as his cousin, the Big Bad Wolf, he is far more numerous and boasts more bad habits than the senior class in a reform school. Don Coyote is both gourmet and gourmand. He is definitely fond of such epicurean delights as spring lamb, tender veal cutlets, breast of pheasant hen, duckling *au naturelle* and the succulent meat of a deer or pronghorn fawn. But he likes such large helpings! For a little critter he has an appetite like the relatives who drop in on the night you're having just one small fryer for dinner.

Probably no four-footed animal extant has more avowed enemies than he. Cattle- and sheepmen hate his hide . . . and every foot of entrails therein. Western wild game conservators and sportsmen-hunters detest the wily rascal for reasons certainly not obscure. But they all give the diminutive devil his due. He commands respect for his resourcefulness, speed, and stamina. Despite more than a half century's concentrated efforts to exterminate his clan, El Coyote has not only survived but prospered. Adhering to outlaw tradition, he usually works in a pack, is always on the alert for signs of danger, and is a master of camouflage. As family folks, Don and his missus could give humans some pretty useful pointers on whittling down infant mortality rates. It is estimated that better than 90 per cent of their pups grow up to dodge hot lead.

Having absorbed all there was to know about the quarry, I concerned myself with markmanship perfection. I was fully cognizant of the fact that one cannot rise from the tin-can-plinking stage to call-your-whisker-at-300-yards in a week. So, I took two weeks. I was privately coached by the NRA's highly touted tutoring trio—Lent, Daniel, and Rogers. I dry fired at everything around my place except my neighbor's gelding cat (something went wrong there and a Kleanbore Long Rifle found its way into the chamber). I gave up following the adventures of Superman and glancing at the gags in Esquire . . . every time I felt the urge to read, I settled down with "The Guidebook to Rifle Markmanship." The reading matter in it is rather dull but the pictures are good.

Then came the matter of choosing the proper weapon with which to equip myself for my one-man crusade against the prairie wolf. I openly sought advice and suggestion as to what gun? what caliber? and what cartridge? Now don't for one

moment ever think riflemen are even slightly hesitant about offering the fruits of their own findings. Well, I finally narrowed it down to a Remington Model 720 .270 with a Lyman 48 receiver sight, a Winchester Model 70 Hornet with a Lyman 57W, a Winchester 75 Sporter with Lyman 29S Lee Dot scope, a Marlin 39A with buckhorn, and borrowed a Savage 23 Sporter .25-30 with a T-mounted Weaver 440. Of course this represents an infinitesimal fraction of the rifles, calibers, and sights I was ardently advised to use, but I knew a hunter has to travel light and I had already packed three large metal boxes with cleaning gadgets, gun blue, oils, stock wax, and 1,500 rounds of assorted ammunition, and a couple of pairs of field glasses, 5½ and 8 power.

Which brings us to the point of my arrival in Arizona's Verde Valley, a hot spot for all types of game. It necessarily follows that where you find all types of game you'll find coyotes as thick as baldheads at a burlesque show. I thought it best to brush up a bit on my "book larnin'" so I dug out the Association's booklet on Basic Small Arms Instruction. Everything was going fine until I got to Pages 22 and 23 which illustrate, in a series of eight photos, how Frank Daniel adjusts the sling. It's a wonderful idea . . . but I just don't seem to be able to shoot with a leather strap tight against my windpipe and the stock of the rifle wedged between my thighs. I decided it was impractical to use the sling anyway because most mesa shots are snap jobs, and the most patient coyote won't sit down and wait for the hunter to fit himself into a strait jacket.

Next step was to look up some member of the famous Bradford & Sons' outfit to help me sight in my small collection of firearms. Jack, the eldest of the offspring, volunteered to lend a hand—and an eye. His pet theory for western shooting is to sight in all rifles point-blank at 100 yards. In other words, the bead is on the little axis of the hands instead of "6 o'clock" for any shot ranging from seventy-five to 125 yards. Jack devoted a lot of time to my Winchester Hornet . . . he was infatuated with it. The feeling was evidently mutual because, after eight or ten trial squeeze-offs, he was putting dime-covered groups on the official fifty yarder. I soon realized though that I had hired a man who comes of a strictly peep-sight family. All the Bradfords believe in the principle of the scope, but as Jack remarked: "Them durn tellyscopes limits my eyes too much—I cain't see no more'n three or four hunnert yards with one o' 'em."

Finally came the big day—the start of the Berryman Crusade to make the world safe for baby antelope! Bradford was taking me up on Schroeder Butte where, he told me, there were so many of the little wild dogs you had to shoot fast or be trampled to death. Oh, I knew he was exaggerating a little, but I figured I'd knock over ten or twelve in a couple of hours which would be all right for the first day. I arrived at the corral at the appointed hour of 5 a. m. to find Señor Bradford saddling up by lantern light. He glanced at me, then quicklike gave me that old Hollywood double-take.

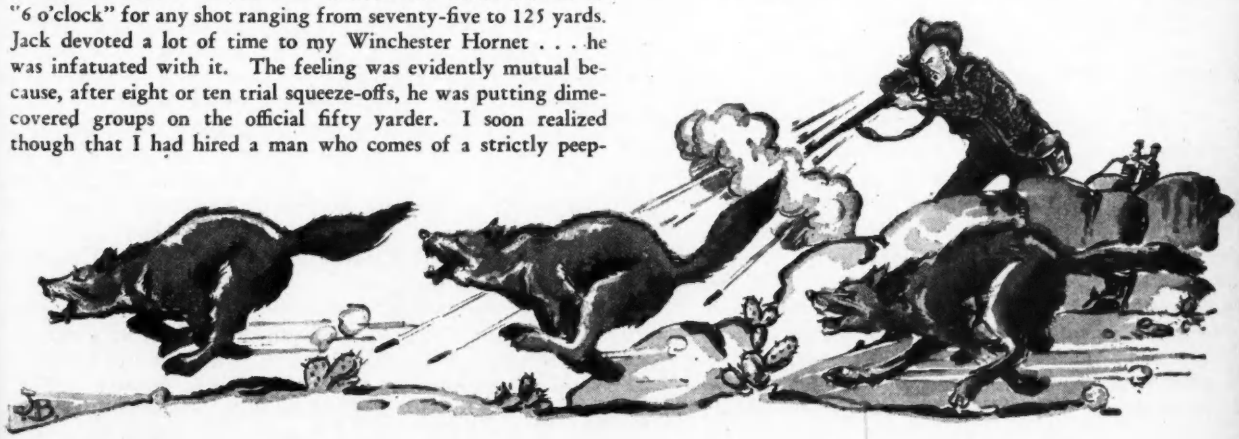
"Holy Smoke," he said, "I didn't bring in no pack horse . . .!"

"Pack horse?" I said, "We don't need a pack horse, all I'm taking this morning is the .270 and the Hornet and field glasses and only fifty rounds for each rifle!"

We started up the rim trail just at daybreak because, among other disgusting habits, the coyote likes to eat breakfast at sunup. Just as Old Sol peeped across Beaver Creek Canyon, tipping the red rocks with fiery orange, we were dismounted and well established in a natural blind near the head of the butte. A rocky drop of about thirty feet gave onto a narrow dry wash neatly fringed with mesquite and paloverde bushes. We were screened by jagged stone and juniper with a shale shelf to fire over.

"This is a deer an' antelope run," said Jack, "them varmints can't stay away from this spot—keep a-lookin' up to th' head of th' draw."

I tried to follow instructions, but that early morning Arizona canyon cold was creeping up me a lot faster than our poor Marine guys crept up Suribachi. Bradford must have felt the



ground trembling under my shivers. He said, "Stick yur trigger finger in yur mouth t'keep it warm."

"Thanks," I chattered, "I w-w-w-wish w-we had Joe E. B-b-brown along, then we c-c-could do s-s-somethin' 'b-bout my feet, too!"

Suddenly Jack nudged me. "Here they come," he whispered, ". . . workin' down th' draw. You take th' lead one an' I'll take Number 2, but wait 'til they get outa th' brush an' in th' low rocks . . . then we'll have 'em at ninety or 100 yards."

I stared as hard as my frozen optics would permit in the direction Bradford was looking. I didn't see a thing except landscape.

"I'll be glad to take Number 1," I answered, "except that I haven't the faintest idea where he is."

"See that kinda square rock—th' big one beside th' clump o' junipers—now look to th' left 'bout ten yards—pair o' 'em—big one in front, movin' slow."

No wonder I hadn't seen them before! They were exactly the color of that early-day background and, slinking along in the half light, blended perfectly with the brush cover. As the duo started down the miniature gorge, Jack said, "Awright, you count three, Jim, an' we'll let go."

Both rifles went off together . . . Number 1 coyote went off alone. Katy Coyote took one forward leap and dug a trench with her muzzle. The forty-six hollow point from Jack's Savage Hornet ended all her worries about what to have for breakfast.

I was irked and mystified as to why Number 1 didn't go down, too. As I squeezed the shot off, my Hornet's ivory bead was six o'clocked on his starboard quartered chest. (I was to learn, as time went by, that I had a particular gift for getting off these perfect misses.)

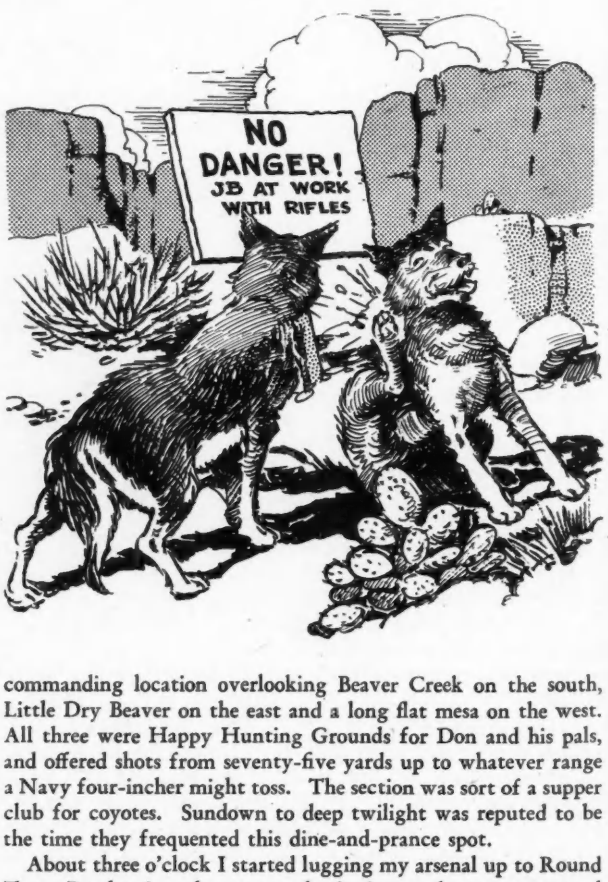
Our next chance came higher up the draw nearly an hour later . . . three of them loping easily up the ridge across from us about 150 yards away. I had one beautiful open shot at the leader as he passed between large sage clumps. I led him just a bare fraction so he'd walk right into the slug . . . only he didn't! He must have jumped over it. Bradford had waited for me to fire, then took a quick running shot at the one playing caboose. Number 3 gave out with a sharp yip and tried to bite his right hind leg while still traveling under a full head of steam. But the leg gave way and he went down for a moment—only a moment, then was up making amazing speed on three props. The damaged one was feathered. I had a perfect shot at him, about 150, as he passed across a rock ledge. The Hornet's front button was dead on his jawbone . . . the shot and the coyote kept right on going! Jack's Hornet whacked a second later and the little wild dog took his final curtain bow.

"Damn!" snapped the eldest of the "Shootin' Bradfords," "glad my pappy didn't see me mess that up—three o' them critters almos' lookin' down our gun barrels, an' I gets one—an' takes two shots t' get him!"

By that time the sun was up proper and beginning to send some good solid heat. In fact, I was thawing out enough to begin thinking—partly about hot coffee back at the ranch, and partly about this coyote-shooting business. It gradually dawned on me that my companion was shooting to kill! And he DID KILL! Now, that's where I had the edge on him . . . I was shooting to kill but doing a top-flight job of co-operating with the Prairie Wolves Program for a Longer and Fuller Life!

This was the beginning of a new era for me. I tried to be modest about this wonderful new thing that had happened, but I had to start admitting to myself that I was on the road to being one of the World's all-time great MISSERS! There followed many similar hunting expeditions. Jack never missed . . . I never missed missing!

But I had to make one final test. I had to prove that I could fail with all my equipment right at hand under the most favorable conditions. Close in to Rimrock is erosion's gift to the hunter . . . Little Round Top. A tiny table top perched in a



commanding location overlooking Beaver Creek on the south, Little Dry Beaver on the east and a long flat mesa on the west. All three were Happy Hunting Grounds for Don and his pals, and offered shots from seventy-five yards up to whatever range a Navy four-incher might toss. The section was sort of a supper club for coyotes. Sundown to deep twilight was reputed to be the time they frequented this dine-and-prance spot.

About three o'clock I started lugging my arsenal up to Round Top. By the time the sun was beginning to do an overexposed kodachrome job on the lazy cloud fluffs relaxing on the western rim, I was "holding the fort alone" with sufficient arms and ammunition to repel a small invasion.

Yes, they came . . . and I saw . . . and I conquered! To make a long story short, in the space of an hour and a half I was able to get off a dozen shots from four of my five fowling pieces. Beads and cross hairs were in positions par excellence as firing pins tapped . . . and not an animal had to have his mommy comb his hair again before dinner! I missed 'em all.

That clinched it! Any minute now, I expect to receive my Cabinet appointment as Secretary of the Inferior for Hunting. Any requests for advice or information will be glady answered . . . address me: J. Berryman Bonaparte, care of The Washington Home for Slaphappy Shooters. (My keeper says that starting tomorrow I can play I'm Napoleon!) ♦ ♦ ♦

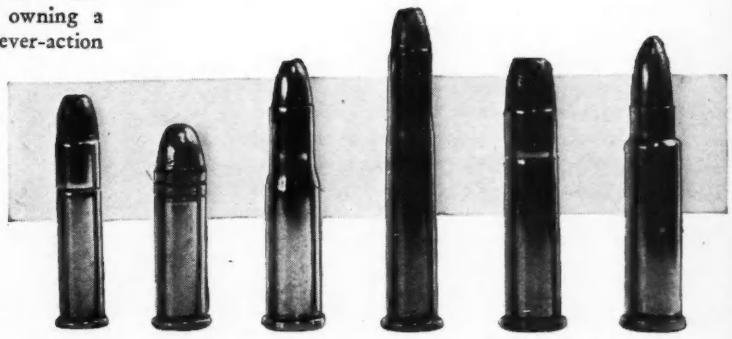
OTHER SMALL GAME CALIBERS

By F. C. NESS

PART TWO

Continuing his report on all our hunting calibers, small and large, the author examines the capabilities of our larger varmint loads. Last month he reviewed the .22 center fires. Look for another Ness roundup of deer calibers in an early fall issue.

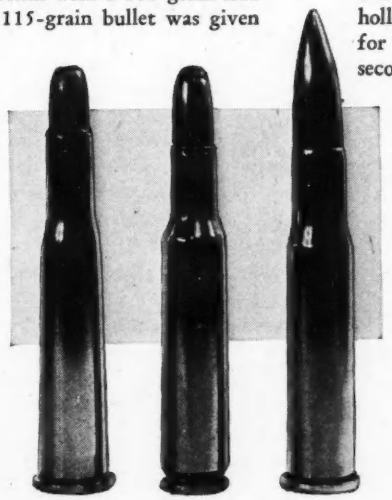
WHEN I WAS A KID, our best rim-fire cartridges for small game, outside of the .22 caliber, were the .25 Stevens and the .32 Long. They were less expensive than center-fire cartridges, and I would dream about owning a Stevens single shot for the former and a Marlin lever-action repeater for the .32 which drove a 90-grain lead bullet at 1,063 foot-seconds muzzle velocity! It was not a poor killer and its caky black-powder residue could be controlled by blowing into the muzzle and by spitting on the bullet. The equally dirty .25 Stevens was also a good killer with its flat-tipped, 67-grain bullet of lead at 1,180 foot-seconds, and it was more accurate, but its flatter trajectory was not much better than that of our .22 Long Rifle. For maximum effectiveness the .32 could not be credited with more than sixty-five yards and the .25 with eighty yards. Both loads were later improved with semismokeless powder, and smokeless made the .25 Stevens a fine, inexpensive, small-game cartridge at one time.



(1) The .25 Stevens Rim Fire; (2) the .32 Rim Fire; (3) the .25-20 Repeater, center fire mate of the .25 Stevens; (4) the .25-20 Single Shot; (5) the .32-20, center fire companion of the .32 Rim; and (6) the .255 Dean, abrupt-shoulder wildcat version of the .25-20 Repeater.

Their center-fire mates were the .25-20 repeater and the .32-20, more powerful than the two rim-fires and much more expensive. In those days relative cost was an important consideration to a country boy who liked to do a lot of shooting. Targets were more plentiful than cash, whereas the reverse is generally true today. The .25-20 drove an eighty-six-grain, flat-end bullet at 1,380 foot-seconds, and the .32-20 had a muzzle velocity of 1,330 foot-seconds with a 100-grain lead bullet of similar shape. Also, a 115-grain bullet was given nearly 1,300 foot-seconds. Smokeless loads were hailed with delight until the rapid bore deterioration which they caused was noted, particularly in the .25-20. My own badly pitted Winchester continued to shoot inch groups at fifty yards with lead-bullet loads and two-inch groups at seventy yards with jacketed bullets. Outside of the bore effect, these high-velocity smokeless loads were an appreciable improvement. They cut the required lead on running game to a practical degree. Before I used the .25-20 H.V. load, I never had any great success on running cottontails. With it, I bagged as many as five on my luckiest day. The muzzle velocity had been boosted to 1,720 foot-seconds, which made an appreciable difference. That of the .32-20, 115-grain soft point was now up to 1,600 foot-seconds in the high-velocity load.

Over 100 yards the midrange trajectory height of the .25 Stevens was over five inches, while that of the .32-20 high velocity was only three and one-quarter inches and that of the .25-20 high velocity less than two inches. That made considerable difference, as no elevation allowance was required on a running rabbit up to 100 yards. Over that distance the .25-20 could group into three-and-one-half inches spread, the smallest groups from rest with peep sights being an inch smaller. The accuracy of the .32-20 was not quite as good. After I had given up the little rifle for the .25-35 Winchester and .25 Remington, the HiSpeed loads came out with copper hollow points and muzzle velocities up to 2,210 foot-seconds for the sixty-grain, .25-20 bullet and up to 2,050 foot-seconds for the eighty-grain, .32-20 bullet. The latter had a hundred-yard trajectory of less than one and one-half inches, while that of the .25-20 HiSpeed was about an inch. Our old repeating rifles had to be sighted much higher for these HiSpeed loads as their impacts at the muzzle were much lower than those of normal loads. The general accuracy was about the same as with high-velocity loads.



(1) The .25-35 Winchester; (2) the .25 Remington; and (3) the popular .30-30 cartridge.

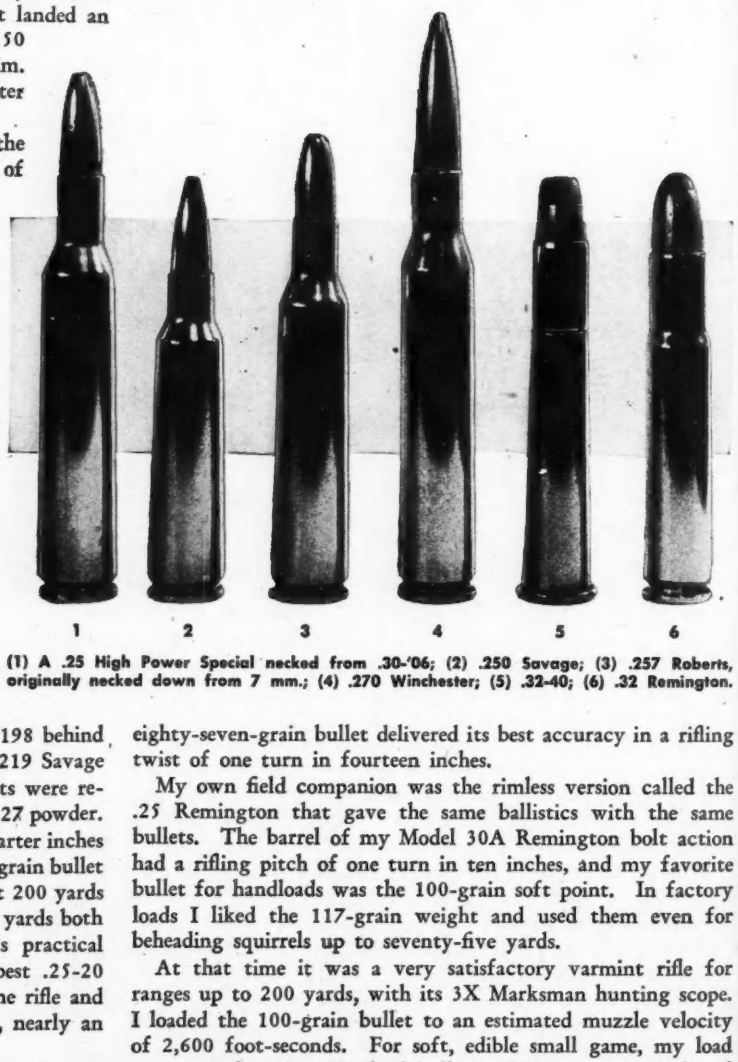
For falling-block actions there was also the cartridge for the .25-20 single shot which was longer than the bottleneck cartridge case used in the .25-20 repeater and had a straight taper like that of the .32-20. Its bullet was the same eighty-six-grain but the velocity was higher, or 1,470 foot-seconds. It was a fine game cartridge for handloaders and its potentialities improved greatly when noncorrosive primers, HiSpeed bullets, and No. 1204 powder became available. The top velocity, with pressures near the practical limit of 38,000 pounds, was 2,500 foot-seconds and, for the eighty-six-grain, jacketed bullet,

2,000 foot-seconds. With an over-all cartridge length of two and one-quarter inches, this took sixteen grains of No. 1204 behind the sixty-grain HiSpeed bullet and thirteen grains with the regular weight. When a target scope was used and sighted an inch high at 100 yards, the eighty-six-grain load printed one and one-half inches above aim at fifty yards and three and one-half inches low at 150 yards. The impacts of the sixty-grain load were identical to those of the original factory Hornet load, or practically so. Zeroed as above, the bullet landed an inch high at fifty yards and one-half inch low at 150 yards. At 200 yards it would be six inches below aim. But up to 175 yards, the varmint shooter could center a crow or chuck and forget about bullet drop.

Harry O. Dean put a more abrupt shoulder on the .25-20 repeater case, increased its capacity to that of the .25-20 single shot, and called his wildcat the .255 Dean. I.M.R. No. 4227 had supplanted No. 1204 powder, but loads of the new brand in the .255 Dean were equivalent to those of the old brand in the .25-20 single shot mentioned above, and ballistics of the two were practically the same. The Savage bolt-action sporters had come out for the .25-20 and .32-20 calibers and were better adapted for varmint shooting with target scopes than the lever-action repeaters although they were but slightly more accurate. The one for the .25-20 Repeater cartridge was called the Model 23-B, and was converted to take the .255 Dean wildcat. Factory loads fired in it formed the new .255 cases.

The scope was less than an inch above the bore, axis to axis, and zeroed to print its bullets an inch above aim at 100 yards. The 200-yard impact was about seven and one-half inches low with sixty-grain and seventy-grain bullets that landed about thirty-one inches below aim at 300 yards. The loads were 15.5 grains of No. 4227 behind the sixty-grain HiSpeed bullet and 15.0 grains of No. 4198 behind a custom, seventy-grain soft point. In the Model 219 Savage single-shot rifle the loads used with these two bullets were respectively sixteen and fifteen grains weight of No. 4227 powder. On this one the scope was higher than one and one-quarter inches above the bore, but it was zeroed the same. The sixty-grain bullet now landed less than four and one-half inches low at 200 yards and the seventy-grain about six inches low. At 300 yards both landed about twenty-seven inches low. Thus, its practical point-blank field trajectory equalled that of the best .25-20 single-shot handload but with a heavier bullet in one rifle and under the handicap of a lower scope in both rifles, nearly an inch lower on the 23-B Savage.

In lever-action repeating rifles, the .25-35 bottleneck, rimmed cartridge was not sufficiently accurate to displace the .25-20 in view of its louder report and greater cost for varmint shooting. But in a heavy falling-block single shot, it was a fine performer. It drove a 117-grain bullet at about 2,200 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and later the factory load was stepped up to give this bullet 2,350 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. The eighty-seven-grain, semipointed bullet was given the respectable muzzle velocity of 2,700 foot-seconds. Over 200 yards the trajectory was no flatter for the heavy round-nose bullet than that of the sixty-grain HiSpeed handload quoted above, but it was more accurate by at least one-half minute of spread than the best .25-20 load and far less sensitive to cross winds, besides delivering a harder blow. The speedier eighty-seven-grain bullet dropped four inches less over 200 yards, but was less accurate than the 117-grain bullet in the steep pitch of rifling commonly used, and more wind sensitive, although it killed as emphatically. Many .25-35 barrels had an eight-inch pitch of rifling for stabilizing the long, 117-grain bullet, whereas the eighty-seven-grain bullet delivered its best accuracy in a rifling twist of one turn in fourteen inches.



(1) A .25 High Power Special necked from .30-'06; (2) .250 Savage; (3) .257 Roberts, originally necked down from 7 mm.; (4) .270 Winchester; (5) .32-40; (6) .32 Remington.

My own field companion was the rimless version called the .25 Remington that gave the same ballistics with the same bullets. The barrel of my Model 30A Remington bolt action had a rifling pitch of one turn in ten inches, and my favorite bullet for handloads was the 100-grain soft point. In factory loads I liked the 117-grain weight and used them even for beheading squirrels up to seventy-five yards.

At that time it was a very satisfactory varmint rifle for ranges up to 200 yards, with its 3X Marksman hunting scope. I loaded the 100-grain bullet to an estimated muzzle velocity of 2,600 foot-seconds. For soft, edible small game, my load was an eighty-six-grain lead bullet and 7.5 grains' weight of Pistol Powder No. 3 or No. 5. This load would keep every shot on a seven-eighths-inch target paster at thirty-five yards sitting, fifty yards prone, and seventy-five yards from rest.

The parallel .32 caliber cartridge was the .32-40 smokeless loaded with a 165-grain soft-point bullet at 1,450 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. This accurate load won practically all our turkey shoots when fired in heavy-barrel single-shot rifles. In my solid-frame Model 1894 Winchester repeater, it won more than its share of turkeys as it was capable of shooting possibles in the two-inch ten-ring at 100 yards with the open sights to which we were restricted. With peep sights I shot a

ninety-two on the Decimal target at 200 yards, and the V-ring of the 300-yard military target was duck soup for this combination when fired from sandbag rest. The high, looping midway trajectory was thirty-two inches over 300 yards and a foot high midrange of 200 yards, so it was not a small-game combination beyond 100 yards. The high-velocity load, at 1,760 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, had a 200-yard trajectory of ten inches. The only H. V. test group that I fired from rest went into less than two and three-quarter inches at 240 paces.

The .32-40 cartridge was the handloader's delight and there were good handloads galore, but none better than the Winchester low-pressure, smokeless, factory load in fixed ammunition. I am not referring to Schuetzen loading for which the .32-40 single shot was most popular. C. W. Rowland's famous one-hole groups at 200 yards were made with his exceptional .32-40 Pope-Ballard, but not with fixed handloads as these did no better than three-and-one-half-inch groups in that unusual barrel. My own pet handload for the Winchester repeater was four grains of No. 80 behind an unlubricated Ideal round, lead ball stuck in the mouth of the .32-40 case, unsized. It was sure death to our large tawny, fox squirrels up to fifty yards, and one season it killed fifty squirrels with fifty-three shots.

A more powerful varmint cartridge was the .250 Savage rimless. Originally it was a deer cartridge in the Savage Model 1899 lever-action repeater, and a good one. The short receiver Model 1920 Savage bolt action made the varmint shooters sit up and take notice, but the .250 Savage did not come into its own as a really fine varmint load until the Model 54 Winchester was announced for it in the spring of 1932. It was the most accurate Winchester sporting rifle I had ever fired, and it retained this distinction until the Winchester Hornet came out a year later and then the Swift three years later. The fine accuracy can be attributed to the favorable rifling pitch of one turn in fourteen inches for the eighty-seven-grain bullet which also handled the 100-grain bullet remarkably well.

In the .250 Savage the factories gave the eighty-seven-grain bullet 3,000 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and the 100-grain 2,800 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. Over 200 yards both bullets had the flat midrange trajectory of 2.5 inches and of only one-half foot over 300 yards. This meant that with the scope sight zeroed an inch high at 100 yards the impacts would be an inch high at fifty yards and only a couple of inches low at 200 yards. At 300 yards these two bullets would land about a foot below aim, so sighted. It gave the varmint hunter a point-blank range of 200 yards and permitted him to misjudge the actual distance by twenty-five yards without any holding allowance for bullet drop. I preferred the 100-grain load as its heavier bullet bucked the wind better in varmint shooting and provided an ideal deer load for our Eastern conditions. I tried it on one ten-point buck at 125 yards and it stopped him cold, although he was obscured by tall weeds and I hit him low and too far back.

(1) Barr .25 Short Magnum; (2) Weatherby's .257 Magnum; (3) Ackley's improved .257 Roberts; (4) .30 Remington; (5) Old Grandpappy .30-'06; and (6) .32 Special.

We had two .32 factory loadings in the general category of the .250 Savage. These were Remington HiSpeed 110-grain, hollow-point, copper-jacketed bullets loaded to 2,630 foot-seconds muzzle velocity in the .32 Winchester Special for lever-action repeaters and in the .32 Remington rimless for slide-action, autoloading, and bolt-action repeating rifles. There was also, of course, the 110-grain HiSpeed .30-30 cartridge at 2,720 foot-seconds muzzle velocity for lever-action repeaters. Over 200 yards, all of these had midrange trajectories between three and one-half and four inches, but only the bolt action was accurate enough for shooting varmints as large as groundhogs beyond 100 yards. The .32 Remington rimless in the Model 30A Remington bolt action was capable of hitting a chuck head every shot at that distance. The rimmed cartridges would do equally well in heavy, falling-block, single-shot rifles, but few were custom made or so converted as the owners of such rifles preferred the more accurate .32-40 cartridge handloaded with the .32 caliber, 110-grain bullet. These latter combinations were capable of shooting two-inch groups at 100 yards and could approach 2,600 foot-seconds muzzle velocity when loaded in the Remington High-Power cases. The Remington .32-40 high-power factory cartridge drove its 165-grain bullet at 1,950 foot-seconds muzzle velocity with a midrange trajectory height of about one-half foot over 200 yards.

In .25 caliber we had two custom cartridges for custom rifles of bolt-action sporting type made by Griffin & Howe and the Niedner Rifle Corporation. These had slightly different shoulder slopes and were not interchangeable, but both were called the .25 High Power Special and were made by necking down the .30-'06 case originally, before the cases were factory produced for both firms. They drove the two weights of .250 Savage bullets at muzzle velocities 200 foot-seconds higher than did the shorter factory cartridge. The 100-grain bullet now developed fully 3,000 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and the eighty-seven grain exceeded 3,200 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. The 200-yard trajectories for these two bullets now flattened to about two inches and to less than four and one-half inches over 300 yards, making them practical field loads for long-range varmint shooting.

N. H. Roberts had Griffin & Howe build a special .25 caliber rifle on a Mauser action chambered for a special 7 mm. case, necked down. The difference was that the 7 mm. had the body proportions of the

(*Continued on page* 36)

POSTWAR REHABILITATION

By LEE ECHOLS

I WAS RUMMAGING AROUND in our hall closet last night when my wife Helen who always suspects the worst when I start looking for something came in and said what are you up to this time Echols? I said I am looking for some notes I made on the pistol matches which I attended in 1939 I said I am going to write an article about them. She said Oh no you're not Echols I remember the last time I caught you with that sneaky look on your face writing pistol shooting articles and they turned out to be a bunch of black lies about me and I said what kind of black lies Helen Love and she said you know very well what kind of black lies Echols like when you said I aimed out of the wrong eye like Al Hemming and crooked my arm like Al Meloche when you know full well that there isn't a better stance on the firing line than mine. I said look Helen the things I said about you are true as a beeline I said you know how funny you crouched down when we went out there that time and how you. . . . Well, for cripe's sake! look here Helen Sweets I said here's my .38 target pistol under all this junk in the closet I said I haven't had it in my hand since I went in the Navy I said and I dry snapped two dead-bang tens and a fair five o'clock nine on the light switch in the closet. She said here now Echols you're not going to start that stupid stuff again for God's sake and I said what stupid stuff are you talking about now Helen Sweets and she said that stupid stuff of going out every few days and punching those silly little holes in pieces of paper and then coming home and crying around for two or three days explaining to me how it happened that somebody punched their silly little holes in a closer bunch in their paper than you did in yours. Now Helen I said you're saying something there now which isn't true. I said in the first place I used to come in every once in a while and unpretentiously announce in my modest way that I'd punched my holes in a closer group than anyone else in the match. I said remember the last match I fired in at Austin, Texas, in 1942 I said Helen your memory isn't so faulty that you don't remember my coming home to announce that I had won the three-gun aggregate. I remember that very well Echols she replied and I remember your spending the next three days explaining that if you hadn't shot in a windy relay you'd have won the .22 aggregate from Jesse Woody. I said Helen that was just a tough break I got over there I said there wasn't a leaf stirring when Jesse shot and the wind was whistling so when I got on the line that it not only shook my arm and curved my bullets but it even blew my necktie in my eyes and blinded me for three shots. She said yes I remember believing that stuff and feeling sorry for you until I talked with Aaron Quick and Spot Osmer who went over there with you and they told me that not only was the wind absolutely still when you shot your .22 but that the range officers gave you two or three alibis that you weren't entitled too at all because you cried around so and that isn't all either Echols she said stomping her foot this time. I recall that I checked up right after you got back from Austin that trip and found out that you didn't even take a necktie over there with you. Well for God's sake Helen Sweets I said it's been four years ago I said I don't remember all the details about it I said it might have been my shirt tail. I do remember having a lot of bum breaks in the .22 matches and Jesse Woody and the rest of them having nothing but nice things happen to them. Well she said that's the way you pistol shooters all are even when you win matches you've always got excuses for not winning them all and when you don't win any she said there's absolutely no living with you for the alibis and excuses you come crying home with. Look Helen Sweets I said it isn't that bad. I said I remember the time when I went up to Phoenix for the Arizona State Matches and after they'd taken pictures of me for the papers and all before the match then Norman Adair just beat the holy daylights out of me and when I came back home I didn't have one excuse for losing. No Echols you didn't she said. I remember that little fiasco she said. You didn't have time for thinking up excuses that time. That was the time I had to send for your father to come over from California to talk with you for three hard days to keep you from blowing your hat hanger completely. No Echols that pistol shooting just won't do she said. You've got to get yourself another hobby since you're out of the Navy. I said now Helen I've had all I can stand I said I won't go for any more of this crazy talk about my pistol shooting I said if I didn't go back to pistol shooting I'd just wander around through life aimlessly with no recreation whatsoever. She said Echols I know when I've had enough she said I've just been waiting for you to start this silly business again she said get out of that closet Echols I'm going to pack up my bag and go home to Mother. I said that sounds like a good idea Helen Sweets I said I'll pack one and go with you. I haven't had a good home-cooked meal since I got out of the Navy. She said Echols how can you joke like this when there is a definite crisis entering our lives. She said you don't seem to understand that this may. . . . say Echols she said what is that you've just picked up there. Why I don't know what it is Helen Love I replied it's just something I picked up looking for those notes on shooting. Why she said do you know it's that pair of tailored slacks you bought me in Tucson that time. Hmmmmm she hmmmmm'd I think I'll take those with me to the Florida matches next spring. ♦ ♦ ♦

They Never SURRENDERED IN NORWAY!

By FRANTZ ROSENBERG

When "Military Organization" men were surrounded, they fought to a finish.

THE NAZIS OVER-RAN NORWAY, BUT NEVER CONQUERED. A PATRIOTIC NORWEGIAN SPORTSMAN MINIMIZES HIS OWN EXPERIENCES IN GERMAN PRISON CAMPS TO TELL OF HIS SON AND THE WORK OF THE "MILITARY ORGANIZATION" . . .

THOSE WHO DID NOT LIVE FOR YEARS under the German occupation can hardly realize the feeling of utter helplessness and mental strain which we experienced for so long in Norway. It was not so much what the Nazis might do to oneself, for a man can always fight and go under, if need be, or he may find a chance to break away. There was the constant fear of being denounced and arrested, and the awful thought of breaking down under torture and divulging secrets that might lead to the torture and death of one's comrades. The Germans so often took this vicious advantage of those left behind—wives, children, relatives, and friends.

So much has been written about the German prison camps that I need not describe my own experiences there. But there were others carrying on an active fight, long after Norway had "given up." Most familiar to me were the happenings during the war in our once-so-peaceful valley of Gudbrandsdal. Here my son and many of his young friends carried on their dangerous tasks for a military organization which finally numbered 40,000 trained, armed men, operating for sabotage and guerrilla fighting under the very noses of our German "guests."

My home town, Lillehammer, is situated at the northern end of a large and beautiful lake, the Mjøsa, from which stretches northwards the picturesque valley of Gudbrandsdal with its many offshoots. On both sides of the valley stretch endless evergreen forests gradually merging into the typical mountain plateaus of Norway, which in so many ways remind me of the barrens and tundras of northern America. From these rise lofty mountain ranges and snow-covered peaks—a country admirably suited for guerrilla warfare and sabotage activity.

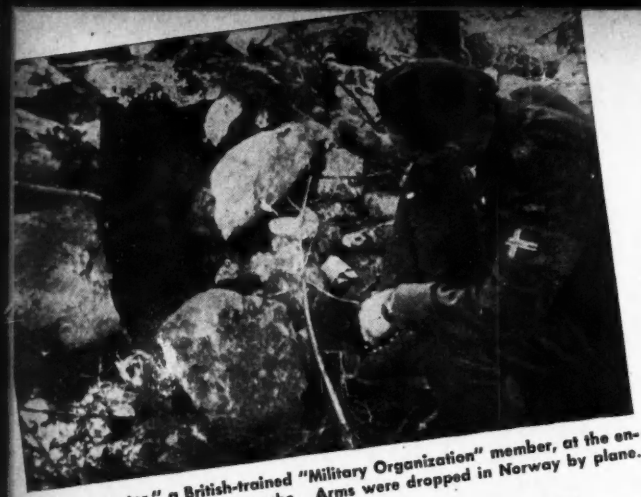
The war in Norway is already ancient history, so I need not dwell on our hopeless fight against heavy odds, ill-equipped and without proper organization, as we were, and the final inevitable result, when we had to give up the open fighting and "go underground," so to say.

When the German occupation had become an established fact, a great many patriotic men and women who would not accept defeat, and who, like most of us never for one moment despaired of the Allies coming out on top in the end, began secretly to form small resistance groups in the various districts. These groups were the beginning of a widespread secret movement throughout Norway, later known simply as "The Military Organization."

First of all were collected and stored at strategic points all the military arms and ammunition, which had been hidden by our troops before they had to give themselves up. From time to time, these arms "caches" were discovered by the Germans or the local Nazis, but there were many left for future use.

At this time also began a great exodus of patriots—officers, soldiers, sailors, engineers, and technicians, men from every station in life, and men and women who felt that arrest by the Gestapo was imminent. The ultimate goal was England, with its military and naval training camps, and where our exiled King and Government had found temporary shelter.

There were two general routes employed by these people, both of them most hazardous. The shortest was, of course, across the North Sea. The other, very long and uncertain, led across the border into Sweden and through Finland or to Rus-



"The Carpenter," a British-trained "Military Organization" member, at the entrance to a secret weapons cache. Arms were dropped in Norway by plane.

A camouflaged shack, deep in the Norwegian forest. Makeshifts like these were used by the "Military Organization" for the storage of equipment.

sia, and then either southwards into Turkey and thence to Egypt and via the Mediterranean to England, or through Siberia and China to Canada or the United States. The Norwegian Government had established a training camp for our Air Force in "Little Norway," near Toronto, which turned out great numbers of daredevil pilots.

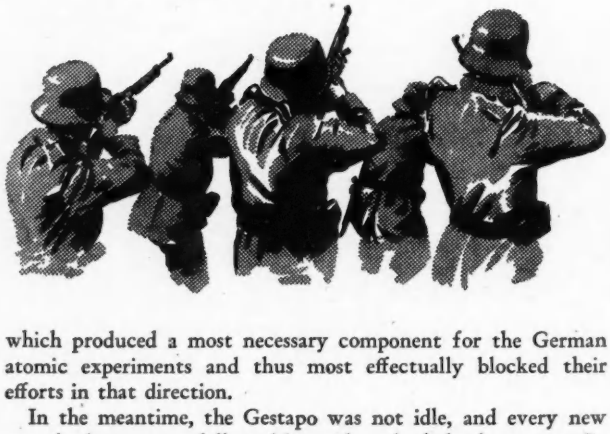
With every harbor and practically the whole Norwegian coast guarded and patrolled by the Germans, it was a risky business to attempt a crossing of the North Sea, especially in the late autumn and winter. The craft mostly employed were small local fishing smacks and even small open boats. There were also instances where a handful of seemingly peaceable passengers on a coasting steamer suddenly produced pistols, and forced a not-too-reluctant skipper and crew to change the course for Old England!

Many were captured or sunk by German naval planes, and those brought back were in most instances tortured and killed or sent to some prison hell in Germany. Still the traffic was kept up, both ways. It used to be a standing joke in the coast towns that they were never without the daily British papers!

From this splendid group of fighting men which finally found its way to the various British training camps were picked a number of men who, besides being physically as perfect as possible, had shown exceptional resourcefulness and aptitude for dangerous special work, secret service, sabotage, and propaganda, or who were specially suited as military instructors or organizers. After going through a very thorough training, these men were finally, one by one or by twos and threes, dropped by parachute at various points in Norway according to prearranged plans worked out by the local Military Organization groups and our exiled Government in London.

These highly trained men immediately set about drilling the members of the Military Organization in the use of all the many new automatic small arms, the use of explosives, and the many gadgets used in modern sabotage. Most important was also the training of radio operators for the internal communication work and contact with the headquarters in England. My youngest boy became such a radio operator. These men also planned the most daring acts of sabotage with the assistance of their eager pupils and the exploits of these air-borne saboteurs would fill volumes, and evoked not only the rage of the Germans, but, as we now know, also their unstinted admiration.

These men blew up closely guarded steamers loading German war material in our harbors and wrecked factories, military trains, and bridges. Offices were destroyed and files of local Nazi police as well as files and documents relating to suspected or arrested patriots or of youngsters who were intended for compulsory military work or service. I may also mention an outstanding act of sabotage, where they blew up a factory



which produced a most necessary component for the German atomic experiments and thus most effectually blocked their efforts in that direction.

In the meantime, the Gestapo was not idle, and every new act of sabotage was followed by raids and wholesale arrests. In many cases where the Military Organization men were surrounded or caught red-handed, they fought it out to a finish. Those boys could fight! Far too many of them were killed, however, and the reprisals on their relatives were inhuman.

Gradually the situation became untenable for the more active Military Organization men, and they had to disappear. Those who were warned in time got across the border to Sweden or took to the woods. These latter kept on with their work for the downfall of the Hun. My younger son was among this group.

How could they subsist in the woods for months or even years? To begin with, shelter was always to be found in outlying small farms or huts, and when that became too dangerous, they built tiny shacks of boards and tar paper, cunningly

hidden and camouflaged with pine branches.

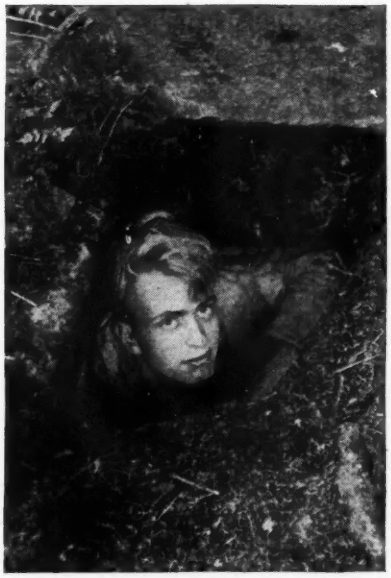
Provisions and necessaries they got from the peasantry or even "by air" from England. I was myself at that time an inmate of a German prison camp and out of touch with the world, and my wife was naturally rather anxious about both myself and our son. She never knew what kind of work he was doing, but during his short, secret visits, she discovered that his clothing and underwear were full of holes as if burnt by acid! Batteries have to be recharged now and then and had to be carried in a rucksack and on skiis, so then she knew of his radio work.

Apart from the deadly danger, certain situations were highly comical, as when the boy had been in town in order to repair some radio material, and was to take a night train going north. He saw a train standing at the depot and was just entering a carriage when he was pounced upon by four German gendarmes, and naturally thought everything was lost. The train was a "special" belonging to the Reichkommissar Terboven himself, but by playing the simple country yokel on a trip to town and speaking the vernacular, he got away with it! On a similar occasion, he sported the Nazi emblem in his coat lapel and grandly saluted with the Nazi salute.

I remember one day in the prison camp when a new batch of prisoners had arrived, and I discovered several of my boy's comrades, battered and beaten, and I got the tale of how one of them, in company with my boy, had come down from the mountains for a short visit to town. While my boy had to give a message at a nearby farm, the other boy continued and fell into a trap and was caught with his pack full of incriminating stuff!

One of the gravest dangers was our local Nazis, who acted as informers and guides for the Gestapo, but we soon learned how to deal with them. A very well-known hunter and woodsman in our district who had been leading Gestapo patrols, and who once nearly caught my son, was called on by some of the boys and simply shot down!

During 1944 and 1945, a great many "droppings" of arms, ammunition, and war materiel were made all over the country. It will be realized how difficult it often was for the pilots to find the prearranged dropping places, and to work it without the ever-watchful Germans getting wise. I remember once when a whole



The author's son in his "fox hole," from which he operated a transmitter for the underground.

flock of parachutes was dropped close to a small winter resort in our mountains, which was full of Easter holiday skiers, and the Germans made a haul of many tons of valuable equipment. The system was gradually perfected, however, and the pilots and ground crews in time became highly efficient, so tons and tons of stuff was safely dropped and stored away.

The general procedure was as follows: Through the secret senders, certain materials were "ordered" from headquarters in England, to be dropped at a selected spot, usually some remote snow-covered lake, a swamp or clearing in the forest, or even up on the bare mountain plateaus, and between two fixed dates and between certain hours, preferably at night. Moonlight and good visibility were necessary for the pilot to find the correct spot, but, on the other hand, it aided the Germans in spotting the planes and getting a bearing on the dropping place.

When the time approached, the Military Organization ground crew, usually some five or six men, put on their skiis, and, well armed with rifles or the new favorite light Model I carbines and clad in white parkas, marched through the forest to the selected spot. Here were arranged three electric lamps in a row, shaded so as to be visible only from the air. During the later years, our men were also provided with a small wireless set, an "Aureka" sender, a duplicate of which was mounted in the expected plane. When the hour approached, a certain signal was sent continuously and, when received by the pilot, guided him within sight of the three lights on the ground. A little maneuvering and then one after another the parachutes were sailing to earth with their cargo of heavy metal containers full of rifles, Sten guns, Brens, ammunition, and various other equipment.

It was a dangerous job for the ground crew, as in the darkness they might easily be hit by one of the containers. Then began the heartbreaking work of picking up the scattered chutes, which were often caught in the trees, dragging the heavy containers together and getting them carefully hidden in some secure spot, and not forgetting to obliterate all the telltale tracks before daylight. Then back to the hidden shack and the laying of new plans of destruction for the enemy.

We had two of these "airborne" experts working in our valley, who really did wonderful work and showed undaunted bravery and re- *(Continued on page 30)*

WELCOME, TYRO!

SO YOU'VE GOT YOUR FIRST MATCH PROGRAM and want to put in your entry. Those match programs can be a little confusing if you are not up on your shooting talk, so . . . to be sure you're right, here's another glossary of common terms and expressions for the edification of newcomers to the competitive sports of rifle and pistol shooting.

Registration—Registration at a registered tournament is the first step toward participation. The competitor must show his NRA membership card or purchase an NRA membership stamp which will be credited toward an NRA membership. His classification must be established either as one already classified by the Association or as a new shooter, in which case he fires as a Sharpshooter until he has scores from three individual matches and a temporary classification based upon them. Soon he finds his name in the national classification booklet.

Advance Entries—More and more tournaments are requiring entries be made in advance of match day. This enables the statistical office to complete much of its preliminary work before the day of the match, resulting in a more efficiently operated match.

Limited Entries—A tournament sometimes limits its entries so that a smooth, uncrowded match can be run. Occasionally, at an unlimited entry tournament, more competitors turn up than can be handled, with the result that officials try to accommodate as many as possible. Matches run at fever pitch until darkness forces competitors to cease firing. By limiting entries, tournament officials can easily and safely run their match without the pressure of too large a crowd.

Re-entry Matches—Something which you might have puzzled over in a tournament program is the occasional re-entry match. Shooters, like all other sportsmen, offer excuses for not turning in as good a score as they think possible. Re-entry matches allow refiring of the match until the shooter feels his ego is satisfied.

Weighing of Triggers—Weighing of triggers is something which is required at a match at the discretion of the Official Referee or Executive Officer. The object of this is to prevent use of light trigger pulls, which are dangerous and sometimes give a competitor a mechanical advantage over others. Safety is the prime consideration, however. Usually the inexperienced shooter feels that a lighter trigger pull will make for better shooting on his part. That is not so, though it does make for dangerous shooting. Particularly is a light trigger pull dangerous with the semiautomatic pistol. In Timed or Rapid Fire you might find yourself firing more than one shot with only one yank of the trigger, a condition which would hurt your score, too, since under the "no alibi" rule you could not shoot that particular string over.

Small bore Rifle—Any variety of the common .22 caliber rifle which uses a rimfire cartridge, and lead or alloy bullet not larger than .23 inch in diameter. The trigger must have at least a three-pound pull, the barrel can't be any longer than thirty inches, and the rifle can't be equipped with a U-shaped Schuetzen-type buttplate or a palm rest.

Big bore Rifle—Big bore or high power, they're the same type rifle. But in some big bore matches you'll find the type of rifle specified as "the service rifle." This, of course, restricts the type of big bore arm to the .30 caliber Army rifle.

Rifle Sights—Match programs always give the conditions of a match, and sights are always mentioned in these conditions. They fall into two classes, "metallic" or "any." Under "any sight" conditions either scope or iron sights may be used. However, in metallic sight matches the normal blade or aperture metallic sight is used.

.22 Caliber Pistol or Revolver—A handgun, be it a single-shot, semiautomatic, or revolver, which uses the familiar .22 rimfire cartridge. For use in competition the barrel length, including cylinder, must not be over ten inches. It must be equipped with open sights, which may be adjustable, set not over ten inches apart. The trigger pull cannot be less than two pounds.

Center fire Pistol or Revolver—A handgun of .32 caliber or larger that uses center fire ammunition. It must meet the same requirements as to barrel length and sights as the .22 caliber, except that it must have a two-and-a-half pound trigger pull.

.45 Pistol or Revolver—Strictly speaking, the .45 is a center fire handgun and may be used in center-fire matches. A record set in a center fire match with a .45 pistol or revolver will be recognized as both the center fire and .45 record. For use in official competition the .45 must have a four-pound trigger pull and strictly open sights set not more than seven inches apart.

Challenges—There are occasions when a shooter is dissatisfied with the scoring of his targets. It is his prerogative to challenge the score posted on the preliminary bulletin. This usually requires the posting of a challenge fee which is returned to him if his challenge is upheld and kept with the revenue of the tournament if denied. The target is rescored and the Official Referee either upholds the challenge and the resulting change in the bulletin or denies it.

Protests—Besides challenging a score, a competitor may file a protest on one of the following *(Continued on page 32)*

ARGUMENTS WILL RAGE FOR YEARS ON THE RELATIVE MERITS OF WORLD WAR II's HANDGUNS. HERE IS ONE AUTHOR WHO BELIEVES THAT OUR OWN SERVICE PISTOL IS AS GOOD AS ANYONE ELSE'S . . .

GREENER PASTURES

By MAJOR GENERAL JULIAN S. HATCHER

RIGHT ACROSS THE ROAD from my house is a cow in a meadow full of nice green grass. I have often been amused to see this amiable but misguided creature wandering up and down the fence looking for a place to stick her head through the barbed wire so she can take a bite of the poison ivy, honeysuckle, or briars that grow in the lane. She reminds me of the pistol user who can't be satisfied with a good American gun, and must have a Walther, Luger, or Beretta!

Of course, we should never become so self-satisfied as to fail to take a good look at these and all other foreign weapons, many of which have some very attractive and useful features. To close our eyes to all outside improvements would be narrow and reactionary, and perhaps worse than the current fashion of going all out for some half-baked foreign design that happens to have enough novel features to furnish ammunition for the fast talkers. The middle ground is to analyze these alleged improvements with care, and then plug for the adoption in our American guns of anything that is found to constitute a real advance.

We have heard a lot during the war about the German P-38, which as compared to our heavier, more rugged thirty-five-year-old .45 M1911, is modern, light, somewhat streamlined, and possesses such features as the loaded chamber indicator and the double-action trigger, which while by no means new, still are sufficiently unknown to furnish good talking points. Should we change our .45 to something like this? And, should we adopt a smaller caliber because nearly all Europeans have done so?

We have just secured the report of the Army Ground Forces most recent pistol tests (see page 48) in which are considered at some length these very questions, together with several related ones. The report makes interesting reading, and furnishes the opportunity for several comments which are set forth below.

The Germans have two service pistols, the Luger P-08 and the Walther P-38. The Luger was adopted by the German Navy in 1904 and by the Army in 1908, hence the name Pistole 08. It has at one time or another been the service sidearm of Switzerland, the Netherlands, Brazil, Portugal, and Bulgaria, as well as of Germany. It was tested for adoption by our

"Instinctive" aiming shows one bad feature of P-38. When guns are pointed quickly, Luger (left) and 1911 Colt (top) align naturally. German P-38 (above) with thick grips and protrusion under little finger, gives firer a tendency to undershoot.

Army in 1907, and gave a good performance, but was nosed out by the Browning-designed Colt .45. The Luger is neat, graceful, and well balanced, with a shape resembling that of the short-barreled Colt Woodsman. The extractor is arranged to act as an indicator to show whether there is a cartridge in the chamber, which it does by projecting above the receiver and displaying the word "Geladen" when the chamber is loaded. This is an excellent handgun safety feature.

Arrows point to two parts which the author finds likely to give P-38 owners trouble. Trigger connecting bar may wear and fail to operate, and breech lock can be left out when pistol is assembled—with disastrous results.

The superb grip has the extremely important feature of causing the gun to point instinctively, so that if the gun hand is thrust toward the intended target without sighting, the gun will naturally point in the right direction.

The Luger has always been highly popular, in America as well as in Europe, but it requires very precise and intricate machining, and is an unusually difficult manufacturing job.

The Walther P-38 also requires much difficult machining, but eases the production problem somewhat by the extensive use of stamped-out parts, such as the trigger, extractor, magazine catch, et cetera. This reduced difficulty of quantity production no doubt had much to do with its adoption in 1938 to supplement the Luger P-08; this in spite of the fact that in several respects it was not a finished design, and was known to have a number of more or less serious defects, which after its adoption were cleverly soft pedaled by the usual adroit propaganda.

Like the Luger, it has a visual indicator to show when the chamber is loaded. Moreover, it has an attractive-looking method (in theory) of safely lowering the hammer on a live cartridge, and carrying the gun with the hammer down and the safety catch off, ready to fire the first shot by a simple pull on the double-action trigger.

When the thumb safety is depressed to the "S" position, a cam surface holds the firing pin out of contact with the primer, and then the hammer drops smartly right onto the head of the firing pin. Unfortunately, as described on Page 17 of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for February, 1946, the surface which holds the firing pin back is attached to its support by an almost paper-thin section, which is far too weakly designed to stand up with certainty under the impact of the freely falling hammer. If this weak section breaks when the safety is lowered, what happens is not merely an accidental discharge, but full automatic fire as well, which will empty the magazine, unless as is usually the case, a jam occurs. This appalling machine gun action is caused by the fact that when the safety is in the "S" position, it depresses the sear. If, through breakage, the gun is discharged when the safety is put on, the hammer will be cocked by the recoiling slide, and will stay cocked until the slide reaches the closed position, when the safety in the "S" position will again depress the sear and repeat the cycle. In a recent case which came to my attention the gun jammed after two shots, and no one was hurt. In another case a soldier was severely wounded. Whenever I put on the safety of my own P-38, I hold the hammer back, then ease it down; and I advise everyone else using this gun to do the same.

When the safety is on "S," the trigger is held in the retracted position and cannot fire the gun. To carry the gun so the first shot can be fired double action, it is necessary to push the safety back up to "F," which allows the trigger to go forward to the double-action position. The hammer is now resting on the head of the firing pin, and the retaining cam has been withdrawn, but if the gun is new and working correctly, the firing pin is still held back, this time by a spring plunger in the top of the breechblock. This passes down through a slot in the firing pin, and holds the pin in its rearward position until the plunger is lifted by the sear lever in the act of firing. Usually this will work as intended, but if the gun is allowed to become rusty or dirty, or if the plunger becomes burred or jammed, a very dangerous condition would occur where the gun could be discharged by a blow on the hammer, or by being dropped.

Another weakness of the P-38 double action system is the unusual speed with which the connecting bar between trigger and sear can wear out. This bar has a hook on the back end, which is what pulls the sear. Just forward of this hook is a thin section, which would be subject to breakage if hardened, and must therefore be left soft. This means that the hook, which is subject to severe wear, is also soft. In some of these guns, merely snapping the mechanism some 500 times is sufficient to wear away the hook so the gun cannot be fired.

A design feature of this pistol which could cause trouble is the fact that the locking block which holds the barrel to the breech during discharge can easily be left out during assembly, and the gun will load and fire in this condition. If this is done, the breechblock will come to the rear with such violence as to wreck the guideways and damage the gun severely. However, the presence or absence of this locking block can readily be verified by drawing the breechblock as far back as it will go, when the locking block will be seen under the barrel just forward of the breechblock slide.

A serious disadvantage of the P-38 is the fact that it does

not point naturally, as do the Luger and the .45 M1911A1. When held forward without aiming, it points downward at such an angle that the bullet would strike the ground about twenty feet in front of the shooter. Under practical conditions of service use, and especially at night, this is a handicap of paramount and in many cases literally fatal importance.

Double-action Features:

In speaking of the P-38, the Army Ground Force Board says the double-action trigger for the first shot *or for a repeated blow on the primer* is interesting and attractive. (The italics are mine.) I want to call particular attention to the fact that this matter of a repeated blow is nowhere nearly as important as many people seem to think it. If the gun is in good condition the first blow will usually crush the priming and drive the indented primer cup right down onto the anvil. A second blow will do no more. The time would be better spent in getting a good cartridge in as quickly as possible. On the other hand, if the gun is so gummed up that the first blow is poor, or if the blow is cushioned by allowing the thumb to rub on the falling hammer, the priming may be just slightly cracked, and enough of it may remain in place on the anvil to go on a second blow. Or, as very often happens, the first blow may crack the priming and allow it to fall away enough so it will not go on a second or any other number of blows.

The Board thinks this feature *alone* is not important enough to warrant a redesign of the .45; that there is no objection to it, provided it does not detract from simplicity and certainty of functioning; and thinks it will be a feature of postwar self-loaders because of popular demand rather than essentiality. While it wants the double-action system considered for any new pistol, it feels that there must be other advanced features added, to warrant a redesign of the .45 M1911A1. These should include increased positiveness of functioning equal to that of a revolver, trigger-actuated reloading in case of misfire, and an improved feeding mechanism, such as integral, solid feeding surfaces to take the place of the delicate lips on the magazine to which most feeding difficulties can be traced. While no mention was made of a loaded chamber indicator, this valuable device should certainly be included in any general redesigning of our service pistol.

To sum up, the Board doesn't find any existing sidearm which in its present form can be adopted to replace the M1911A1, but does think that a complete redesign might be a profitable undertaking.

It is interesting to note that as ideas in the minds of designers the items the Board asks for are by no means new. Many automatics have had integral feeding surfaces, and in the trials of 1907, which finally led to the adoption of the .45 Colt, there was one gun, the Knoble, which had a double-action trigger, and another, the White-Merrill, which had a finger lever below the trigger guard for reloading by a pull of the finger. While these things are not novel in conception, they are evidently quite difficult to work out in a practicable and easily operated form. There is still room for a good designer in this field, but he will have to be really GOOD!

The Question of Caliber:

In view of the great vogue of the smaller calibers among the European nations, the Board discusses at considerable length the question of whether or not we should go to a cartridge less powerful than the .45.

With most other nations using a 9 mm. or smaller, and with so many people having the human tendency to follow the other fellow like sheep jumping over a fence, it is not surprising that the suggestion has been made.

Nor is it surprising that at the same time, the Germans were showing a very high regard for the .45 caliber Pistole 657, as they called the captured Norwegian pistols, which are exact duplicates of our .45 M1911. Truly the pasture always looks greener on the other side!

In the matter of handgun stopping power, we took such a lacing in the Philippines around 1900, that as they say, "We can feel the place in frosty weather still!" We had been listening to the small-caliber boys even back in those days, and we had just discarded the .45 revolver for the .38. The result was the loss of many lives, for the religiously fanatical Moros, bent on going into the next world in a manner that would gain them an eternal reward, would frequently put on what would be known today as a *kamikaze* act. In this condition of superhuman frenzy, they were able to receive not only one, but often as many as six lethal hits from the .38 without losing motive power to accomplish the supreme objective of splitting a white skull with a bolo.

Some of our people still carried the old .45, and it soon became common knowledge that even a juramentado Moro would be instantly flattened by this terrifically paralyzing slug. As a practical thing, the officers in the Islands whenever they could do so, procured .45's even at their own personal expense. After the fighting was over, the Army made a series of tests and decided to adopt the .45 as the standard sidearm caliber. This decision has stuck to the present time and has been confirmed whenever it has been put to a practical test. The smaller calibers simply haven't the stopping power.

Both the P-08 and the P-38 are chambered for the 9 mm. Luger cartridge, which with the exception of being slightly less powerful, is almost a duplicate of the superb .38 ACP cartridge. The Colt bullet weighs 130 grains and is .359 inch in diameter, has 1,200 feet per second velocity, and 417 foot-pounds energy. The Luger has a 125-grain bullet, .354 inch in diameter, with 1,100 feet per second and 320 foot-pounds of energy. These figures vary somewhat with different makes, but the ones given may be taken as typical.

The Board rates the stopping power of the Luger as about half that of the .45 ACP, and calls stopping power a paramount factor for a military pistol. It states further that a review of all foreign and domestic pistol and revolver cartridges fails to substantiate the existence of one that warrants a change from the caliber .45 ACP cartridge.

My own views are that the people who have been asking for a smaller pistol cartridge must have been looking east so intently that they forgot all about such things as Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and *banzai* charges. I never actually saw a *banzai* charge, and I'm probably lucky that I did not, but I was on Saipan in 1944 shortly after one took place, and I saw the results of it, and talked to some of the people who were in it, and I don't want anything to do with a smaller caliber for the service pistol!

As I said before, the Board report makes interesting reading, but if you were hoping that it would reveal something on the other side of the fence that is really better than what we already have, you've been disappointed! ◆ ◆ ◆

COMMON SENSE APPLIED TO—

Internal Ballistics

By C. C. MEREDITH

(Summing up this important series to date, neither altering case shape radically nor increasing the powder capacity by about 18 per cent has altered the burning characteristic of the powder, has not improved appreciably the pressure/velocity ratio, nor increased the muzzle velocity in a ratio out of proportion to the increase in propellant used. The inference is, then, that chamber shape does not matter a great deal aside from ease of manufacture and satisfactory functioning in the mechanism of the arm. In Part Two, last month, the author dealt with the source of energy available for propelling a projectile . . . the characteristics of gunpowder.)

PART THREE

THE CONNECTING LINK as it were, between the static state of the projectile as it lies in the throat of the rifling and the highly dynamic condition in which it leaves the muzzle of a high-velocity rifle, is "acceleration." In mechanics, acceleration is defined as "the rate of change of *velocity* with respect to *time*." This definition shows clearly the relationship between acceleration and velocity, and also introduces the time element. It requires very little thought to realize that, to achieve some definite *velocity* the bullet must be *accelerated* at a certain *rate* for some specific *time*. Since this analysis is not intended to be used as a textbook, but only to bring out the probabilities, higher mathematics will be avoided, and approximations used. With this in mind, we will make use of the mathematical symbol for "is proportional to," $\propto$ in our equations throughout, and write this one as

$$V \propto at \quad \ldots\ldots (1)$$

Having established a "common sense" relationship between "V" for velocity, "a" for acceleration and "t" for time, we must now define acceleration in terms of physical values. According to the textbooks on physics, acceleration is the result of a force "F" acting upon a mass (weight) "M." Since our bullet has the property of weight, which is usually indicated as "W" (and measured in grains or grams), we will use the symbol "W" here, and write down the following definition for acceleration—

$$a \propto \frac{F}{W} \quad \ldots\ldots (2)$$

In order to make practical use of equation 2, we must similarly define "F" for Force, again according to the textbooks, as

$$F \propto PA \quad \ldots\ldots (3)$$

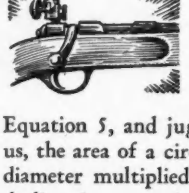
This introduces pressure "P" and area "A," and enables us to rewrite Equation 2 into a more usable form interpretable in terms of chamber pressure and area of bullet base, (or caliber), thus—

$$a \propto \frac{PA}{W} \quad \ldots\ldots (4)$$

In plain language this equation can be stated, "acceleration is *increased* directly by an *increase* in either chamber pressure or area of bullet base, and is *reduced* directly by an *increase* in bullet weight." Since from Equation 1, velocity increases with increased acceleration, it follows that we can substitute it for the term "acceleration" and say "velocity is increased by increasing either pressure or area, and is reduced by an increase in weight of bullet." Further, since velocity is roughly the product of the rate of acceleration and the time it is maintained, it is evident that the longer the application of pressure, the higher will be the velocity. Still sticking to common sense at some expense to the rigid accuracy demanded by higher mathematics, we can loosely write,

$$V \propto \frac{tPA}{W} \quad \ldots\ldots (5)$$

Now let us see where we are. Our main object is to impart the highest possible velocity "V" to a given weight of bullet "W" in an interval of time "t" without exceeding a maximum pressure "P," the latter being set by considerations of safety. It is only plain horse sense then, that if we allow the pressure "P" to drop during any part of our barrel time "t," we are going to lose velocity by a proportionate amount. Since the muzzle loss is proportional to the gas pressure at the instant of bullet departure, we cannot, then, alter it without lowering our muzzle velocity. As has been previously pointed out, the burning characteristic of a propellant is controlled by the make-up of the propellant itself and is entirely independent of the shape of the vessel in which the propellant is burned, so there is no argument thus far in favor of any particular shape of chamber.



Before we leave this rough-and-ready mathematical analysis, let us return to Equation 5, and juggle it a little more. As our textbooks tell us, the area of a circle is equal to the "square of one-half of its diameter multiplied by a numerical constant." Since we are dealing in approximations, we can then say that the area of a circle varies as the "square of its diameter," or as d^2. Using this term, we can then rewrite Equation 5, and by a little rearrangement present it in this form—

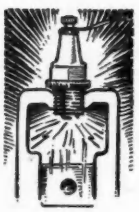
$$V \propto \frac{tP\,d^2}{W} \quad \ldots\ldots (6)$$

We at once recognize our old friend sectional density, W/d^2 turned upside down, at the end of the equation. In plain language, then, we may say with reasonable accuracy that "muzzle velocity varies with pressure and barrel time, and inversely with sectional density of projectile." This reveals why, for a given powder charge, lower pressures are encountered in the larger calibers. Before passing on, it should be noted that velocity increases with increasing barrel *time*, which is quite different from saying that it increases with barrel *length*. Any increase in barrel length takes effect at the muzzle end, where the velocity of the bullet is very high and thus for normal barrel lengths results only in a quite small increase in barrel time, hence only a small increase in velocity.

It must be understood that one important property of gases is that they exert pressure equally in all directions. Thus, the pressure in a rifle chamber is substantially the same at all points, bolt head, chamber walls, and bullet base alike, in proportion to their respective areas. The work done by the expanding powder gas, however, is something else entirely. Work done assumes movement, and in any properly constructed firearm, (aside from automatic and self-loading arms in which we are not interested here), movement is restricted to the bullet until the arm recoils. Recoil is not pertinent to this discussion, of course. According to Newton's Third Law, the bullet must resist the powder gas with the same force as the powder gas exerts upon the base of the bullet. Thus from these two basic principles, we see that flow is not really a factor at all, until the bullet leaves the gun. Obviously, if there is no difference in pressure, there can be no flow, and if there is no flow, then "streamlining" of the chamber shoulder is entirely pointless. The action can be likened to a person sitting on the floor behind a piano, with his back to the wall and his feet against the piano, knees doubled up. When he applies pressure to the piano, this pressure is applied alike to the wall against which his back rests. The shape of the wall is unimportant, as long as the support to his back is unyielding—all his effort being expended in moving the piano. The acceleration of the piano depends upon the resistance its casters meet in rolling across the floor, the weight of the piano, the strength and flexibility of the individual's muscles. The final velocity attained by the piano is governed by the acceleration imparted to it and the length of time the acceleration is maintained. If the wall against which his back rests is as unyielding compared to the piano as chamber walls are to the bullet, it does not matter whether his back is in a corner or in the middle of the wall. In fact, a good stout post would do just as well for a support, providing it was rigid.

We have seen frequent references to "turbulence" as an important factor in ballistic efficiency, so let us investigate the origin and application of this condition. The dictionary gives as synonyms, "tumult, confusion." In application then, this would indicate a churning motion of the powder gas. Since we are not interested in any movement other than a straightforward movement of the bullet up the barrel, there can be no particular advantage in having the gas in a tumultuous state. This term, however, is used in connection with internal combustion engines to describe the motion imparted to the gasoline vapor by the shaping of the cylinder head and gas ports. Its function is, I believe (I am not an internal combustion engineer), to improve ignition and to assist in eliminating the burned gas from the combustion chamber. Obviously, in a rifle "combustion chamber," we are not concerned in the least with the elimination of spent gas, but we are very much interested in ignition. Let us therefore see if there is anything here which we can turn to a profit. In the internal combustion engine, we have a "propellant," a means of igniting it in the form of a spark plug, a "projectile" in the piston, a combustion chamber, and a "barrel" (cylinder). Aside from the work we expect the projectile to do, it is a pretty fair parallel to our rifle. There are, however, certain very important differences between the methods of ignition in the two mechanisms, and in the character of the two propellants. In the internal combustion engine, the function of ignition is performed by a fixed spark, whereas in the rifle this is accomplished by an intense blast of flaming gas. The propellant in the engine is already in the form of a gas when it is introduced into the combustion chamber, while the rifle propellant is in the form of a more or less finely divided solid substance. Now, mark this well: the complete ignition of all the gas molecules in the cylinder head of the engine can only be accomplished in the shortest period of time by bringing them into contact with either the fixed spark, or with other molecules which have already been set alight, in the briefest possible period of time. On the other hand, the blast of incandescent gas from the primer seeks out all exposed surfaces of the powder charge in an exceedingly short interval of time. By no stretch of imagination can turbulence be imparted to the powder charge before ignition, and since the increase in temperature of the ignited charge itself ensures complete ignition of any small areas which the primer blast has failed to reach, we inevitably arrive at the conclusion that turbulence has no real bearing on the problem. The action of firing the gas in the internal combustion engine without turbulence is much the same as lighting a bonfire in only one place; that of lighting the gas in a turbulent condition can be compared to lighting it in rapid succession in many places, while the ignition of the powder charge by the primer can be likened to turning a flame thrower on the woodpile at close range.

Briefly, the considerations in designing a chamber then are largely of a mechanical nature, and there does not appear to be any justification for those designs which interfere in the slightest degree with the proper mechanical functioning of the cartridge in the arm, or which do not lend themselves to convenient and economical production and reloading. If a certain muzzle velocity is required, it is desirable to make the powder capacity large enough to provide sufficient space to accommodate a large enough charge of the correct propellant at the proper loading density to do the work required of it without building up excessive pressure. It is in this last respect that the small cartridges, commonly considered to be highly efficient, fall down. Two very popular small-capacity cases achieve their astonishing performance at the expense of very high pressures, 55,000 to 65,000 p.s.i. being not at all uncommon. Fortunately for the ardent users of these cartridges, they are usually enclosed in amply strong rifles for the total energy of the maximum powder charge which they will contain. Coupled with this is the fact that the total chamber-wall area is relatively small, thus keeping the total disruptive pressure within safe limits. Nevertheless, it is very poor economy to crowd too much powder into any cartridge case regardless of size, even though this results in an apparently high degree of efficiency from the standpoint of foot-seconds per grain of powder. Why should we be concerned with economizing on our cheapest component at the expense of shortening the life of our pet rifle or even possibly of ourselves. Some time ago, we tried one shot in the laboratory in one of the small, high-density "wildcatted" cartridges. The load was one which had appeared in print and was attributed to the credited originator of the conversion. It did achieve the velocity claimed for it, but at what expense? The recorded pressure was 89,000 pounds per square inch. That, gentlemen, is no bargain, especially when we could get the same velocity with a 10 per cent heavier bullet in the standard Zip-



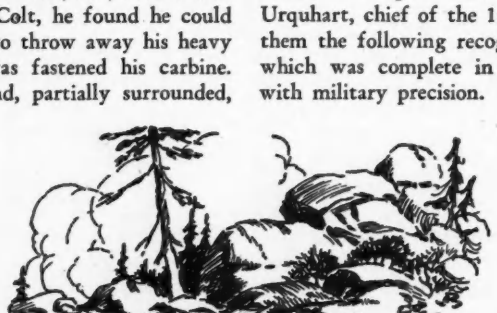
per at about 35,000 p.s.i. at a cost of less than a quarter of a cent more per shot. Let us make it clear in this connection, that the writer is not employed by any of the powder companies, nor by any of the arms or ammunitions manufacturers, nor is he beholden to any of them for anything. He is, further, not interested in promoting any wildcat cartridge and has no ill will towards any honest "wildcatter." The true measure of the efficiency of any firearm is not the velocity per unit of powder consumed, but the number of pounds per square inch which the mechanism must withstand for each foot-second of velocity imparted to a projectile of given weight. This is simply pressure divided by velocity, for any particular weight of bullet, and is the "yardstick" used throughout this investigation. If this measure of performance is to be applied in assessing the difference between two cartridges having differing bullet weights, the ratio should be divided by the bullet weight applicable, bearing in mind that no true comparison can be made between widely different calibers.

In order to put our early experiment, and the foregoing mathematical(?) discussion arising out of it to the acid test, an experiment was devised to determine as conclusively as possible the correctness or otherwise of our reasoning. A description of this experiment will be given in Part Four to follow next month.

They Never Surrendered in Norway!

(Continued from page 23)

sourcefulness. One went by the field name of "The Carpenter" and was an expert radio man, trained in England. He came to us early in the war and made several trips back to England via the mountain route to Sweden and returned to us by parachute. He remained for over two years, instructing and planning, without ever being caught. How he did it, I do not know. Another one was Bjarne, to call him by his "field" name, a big, strong fellow from the west coast of Norway. On one of his trips to Lillehammer, Bjarne stayed at the home of a patriotic woman, who at that time had a young granddaughter, Gerd, staying with her. Bjarne was obliged to make a trip across the mountains to a distant place in our valley, not daring to go by the roads in the valley. It was winter, with heavy snow, and Bjarne did not know the forest trails. A rather famous long-distance ski runner, who lived close by, was asked to act as his guide, but he did not dare risk it as his house was just then being watched, so young Gerd volunteered to show the way. The pair started off on skiis and after a couple of hours running they got in sight of the pass through which Bjarne was to reach the plateau and from where it would be plain sailing by compass. Here Gerd left him and returned in their tracks. As Bjarne emerged from the forest near the timber line, he ran right into a German Gestapo patrol on skiis, under the leadership of the German ski-expert of the local Gestapo. They had evidently observed him and his companion from above, and had been lying in wait for them. Bjarne's only chance was to run for it. He set off downhill with bullets whistling about him, but, encumbered by a heavy pack, carbine, and a .45 Colt, he found he could not outdistance his pursuers and had to throw away his heavy rucksack to which, unfortunately, was fastened his carbine. He still could not shake them off and, partially surrounded, he had to make a stand. He was an excellent shot and began blazing away with his Colt. One German went down, then another and another. The ski expert had part of his face shot away, and another, who tried to crawl away on all fours, was hit by a slug in the seat of his pants and seemed to split lengthwise! This stopped the rush and, incredible as it sounds, Bjarne's clothing was riddled with bullets, though only one went through his leg without incapacitating him much, but leaving a blood trail! After a heartbreaking run, Bjarne finally got down to a well-trampled logging road and here took time to bandage his wound. Making a short cut towards the river, which flows through the forest, he reached the bank, threw himself in and managed to swim across. The Germans in the meantime had lost his tracks. Luckily, it started snowing, so the tracks of Gerd also were obliterated.



Somewhat to the east of Lillehammer, beyond a high, forested ridge, lives my friend and old hunting companion, Ola Bjorneby, and for this haven of refuge, Bjarne steered his course. His clothing froze stiff and both trouser legs cracked at the knees and broke off. Towards morning, he finally reached Bjorneby's little farm and was taken in, fed and clothed, and with Bjorneby as guide they set off again to a small shelter which Bjorneby had erected for just such an occasion, and here they remained until the hue and cry was over and he could continue his interrupted trip.

Both Bjarne and "the Carpenter" came through the war alive, but another splendid young fellow and close friend of my son's was caught by the Gestapo and foully murdered when he was carrying food to some Russian refugees.

It is with great satisfaction that we now can look back on the splendid work that these Military Organization men did. The Germans and the local Nazis repeatedly boasted that they had broken up the organization, but when the hour came, 40,000 well-drilled and well-armed Military Organization men were on the spot and took over. The British Major General Urquhart, chief of the 1st Airborne Division in Norway, gave them the following recognition: "We found an organization which was complete in every detail, and which functioned with military precision. All vulnerable objects were guarded, steps had been taken to protect stores and valuable property, and much useful information was immediately available. Whoever asked for assistance got it, and there is no doubt that such results can only be achieved as a result of hard work and preparation through a long period." ♦ ♦ ♦

CARTRIDGE PROBLEM

By J. V. K. WAGAR

A BIG CHANGE HAS STRUCK the shooting world, but it has happened so quietly that not everyone is aware of it. It is shown in part by the demand for pioneer cartridge cases, particularly for sizes to fit Ballard, Maynard, Remington, Sharps, Springfield, and Stevens single-shot rifles.

Many of these cartridges were still listed in Winchester and Remington-UMC catalogues issued just before World War I, although no great sale existed for them. Many old-timers were still alive and owned both black-powder single shots and more modern rifles. These men preferred the modern rifles for the difficult hunting which then characterized the pursuit of deer and elk, and kept the old Ballards or Sharps for less important shooting or for reminders of earlier days. Thus, it did not take many cartridges to keep the old rifles going, and other cartridges of the same sizes gathered dust in neighborhood hardware stores. With few exceptions manufacture ended then for such ammunition.

Conditions have changed markedly in the nearly thirty years which have since passed. Cartridge collectors and dealers in specimen cartridges have come into existence and have bought out stocks of old cartridges. Most old-timers who owned pioneer rifle types have crossed the Divide and their rifles are lost or have been sold to others. Cartridge cases, once accompanying the old rifles, have been lost or have corroded after firing, as cases fired with black powder do when stored without cleaning.

There probably are more gun collectors than ever before, and more dealers in collectors' arms. Gun collectors desire cartridge cases for use in their various arms or to have on hand for possible use. Restricted cartridge manufacture during World War II and a "duration" already longer than World War I have made desirable any rifle-and-cartridge combination that can be acquired. There are more deer and elk than in 1917. Some riflemen living near game fields, where the success of a hunting season does not depend upon a single opportunity to shoot, enjoy the handicap involved in the use of pioneer rifles and cartridges upon big game. All of these things have created a new demand for pioneer cartridges.

THE CHARCOAL BURNERS ARE RUNNING OUT OF FODDER. IS THERE ENOUGH INTEREST IN BLACK POWDER CARTRIDGES OF THE LAST CENTURY TO JUSTIFY MANUFACTURE AGAIN?

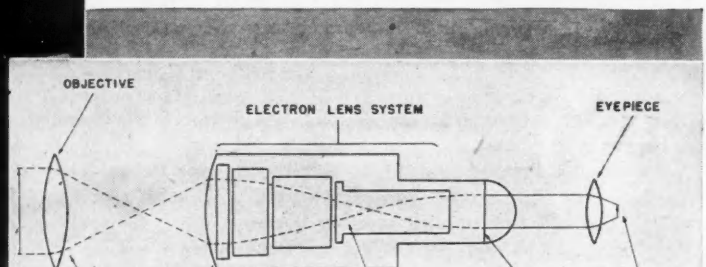
This demand varies with individual cartridges. Most inquiries for Sharps .45-120-550 three-and-one-quarter-inch cases come from men wanting single specimens of factory-loaded cartridges for their collections. Not many men want them for use, for comparatively few rifles were chambered for these cartridges. On the other hand, many rifles were made for the .50-70 Government, .45 Sharps two-and-seven-eighths-inch Straight, .40-70 Ballard, and .40-70 and .40-90 Sharps straight and bottlenecked cartridges, and a surprising number of letters request empty cases to be used for reloading.

Although the demand is now considerable, its volume should not be misjudged. There is not enough business to warrant all manufacturers who once produced these pioneer cases again to engage in their manufacture. There should, however, be enough demand to support the manufacture of three or four basic sizes of case by a single manufacturer. Since most riflemen who actually fire such cases reload them, no attempt should be made to produce factory-loaded ammunition entailing machinery for bullet manufacture.

I believe the .50-70 Government case is the one most in demand among all early cases desired for shooting purposes. Great numbers of U. S. Springfield, Sharps, Remington Navy and military, and other rifles were made in or converted to this caliber. Many other cartridges appear to have been developed from it. Among these are the .50 Pistol, .50 Carbine, .50-95 Winchester Express, .45-75 W.C.F., and even the .50 two and one-half- (.50-90-473) and .50 three-and-one-quarter-inch Sharps cases; all with the same approximate head and rim diameters. Greater variation is found among rim and case diameters of these cartridges of earlier manufacture (especially among cases of different brands) than is found among high-intensity cartridges today, but they were still decidedly interchangeable. If straight-taper cases in the .50-70 head size could be manufactured 1.95 inches in length, these could be trimmed and sized to fit any chambers of this series excepting those for the two-and-one-half- and three-and-one-quarter-inch Sharps cartridges, and it is doubtful if enough rifles for these longer cases exist to worry about.

Demand for pioneer cases suggests that a beginning be made toward supplying this shooter need. Obviously, the most popular sizes should be considered first. From experience with these, the practicability of providing less popular types may be determined. Someone must take the lead. Some cartridge factory which has only recently made cartridges for the .45-75 or .50-70 might produce basic cartridge case stock for the .50 caliber series. It should be realized, however, that cartridge manufacturers may not have effective contacts with shooters except through dealers, who often do not understand reloading intricacies, and who are well informed only when dealing with the most common cartridges.

A manufacturer of reloading tools could effectively undertake this service and could profit from the sale of both cases and tools. With full-length sizing dies for most cases, such a firm could even be in a position to trim and size basic stock to desired dimensions. Special "everlasting" cases in standard sizes were once featured by reloading tool manufacturers at prices ranging from five to twelve cents each during days when labor was paid less, but when mechanical efficiency was also lower. As was true with "everlasting" cases, cartridge designation head stamps are unnecessary for intelligent reloaders. An economy of manufacture is thus effected. Responsibility for safety in use is thus also passed on to the shooter, although this matter is of little concern. All cases under discussion are rimmed types involving no head-spacing worries and are used at conservatively low pressures. ♦ ♦ ♦



Upper left: Sniperscope gives rifleman the advantage in full darkness or at dusk, when visibility with standard sights is poorest. Lower left: Outfit is light and compact. Below: Schematic diagram of the scope tube. Actual details of construction remain an Army secret.

The Amazing Sniperscope

(Continued from page 13)

mounted on a .30 caliber M2 Carbine, which is also rigged with a low-slung spotlight. A heavy-duty cable passes from the scope to the rifleman's back, where it enters a power supply carried in a neat back-pack.

From the light source, or black "spotlight," infra-red light is projected on the enemy personnel and the reflected infra-red rays are picked up by the mechanism contained in the scope, to form an eerie, bright green image. In this manner the enemy is visible only to the man who peers into the scope. The enemy who is in plain view, and is using the naked eye, has no knowledge of the light's presence. At this stage, the rifleman is left only with the task of bringing his aiming point to bear on the particular bit of anatomy he wishes to perforate, and squeezing off his first "shot for record." If he is rushed and desires more action for his squeeze, a switch of a lever gives him full automatic fire.

The well-known and unpopular Japanese game of night infiltration was thrown for a serious loss when the numbers of 110-grain carbine pills mysteriously finding their way into yellow hide skyrocketed past old records. Approximately thirty percent of the Japanese small arms casualties in the first seven days of the Okinawa campaign are attributed to this weapon. Those figures make a nice citation for the Engineers of Fort Belvoir, who were able to confine such a deadly instrument to a total weight of about 28 pounds. Additional weight of this kind was welcomed by the already burdened infantryman who had the nasty job of holding down a foxhole throughout black jungle nights.—J. S. Rose.

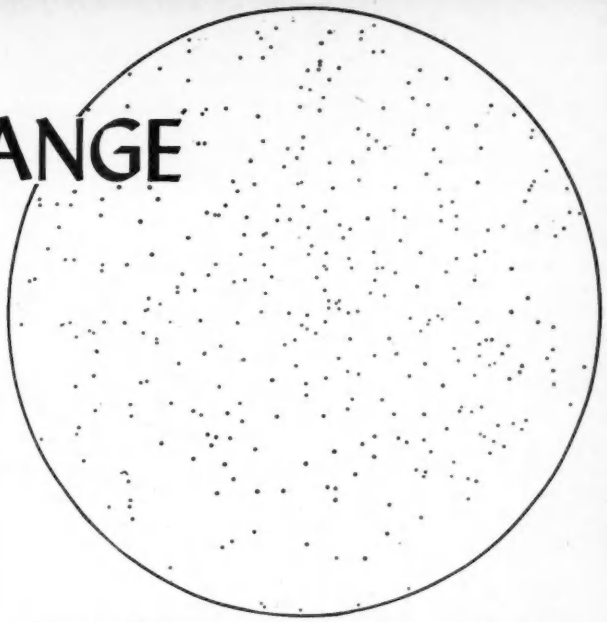
Welcome, Tyro!

(Continued from page 24)

counts: (a) Any injustice which he feels has been done him in any matter affecting his firing of a match or his final score or ranking; (b) the conditions under which another competitor has been permitted to fire; (c) the equipment which another competitor has been permitted to use. First he calls a discrepancy to the attention of the Chief Range or Chief Statistical Officer. If the results he gets from them are still unsatisfactory, he may file a written protest with the Official Referee.

Awards—There are two types of awards made in tournaments—place, and class. Place awards are made to match winners and second and third place winners. Class awards are made to the high three (usually) in each of the various classes, Expert, Sharpshooter, Marksman First Class, and Marksman. A few tournaments also make class awards to the Master Class but this is unusual. Most Masters prefer to shoot against the entire field. ◆ ◆ ◆

SHOTGUN KILLING RANGE



By NORMAN POWELL

QUITE OFTEN SHOOTERS WANT TO KNOW at what distances a shotgun of a certain gauge and degree of choke will kill game. It is impossible to give a direct, brief answer to such a question. The best one can do is to tell a shooter who asks such a question *about* what the average killing range of certain types of shotgun should be. This hedging is unavoidable for two reasons. First, there is a considerable variance in the actual killing range of shotguns of like gauge, rated degree of choke, and other characteristics. Secondly, a complete analysis of the behavior of a load of shot after it emerges from the barrel of a shotgun is a rather complex affair. The fact remains that a complete analysis *must* be made if we are to know the distance at which a shotgun will definitely kill.

The two factors that determine the actual distance at which a shotgun will kill game are the density and evenness of the gun's patterns, and the velocity and killing energy of those shot pellets which actually hit the game. You have to hit your game with a reasonable number of shot pellets and the shot pellets that score hits must have killing energy. Now, any shotgun throws two different kinds of pattern; namely a lateral pattern, and a longitudinal pattern that is commonly called the shot string. The lateral pattern of a shotgun is caused by the bore-angular dispersion that occurs after the load leaves the gun. The longitudinal pattern is caused by bore-parallel dispersion due to a differential in the velocity of the shot pellets. The dispersion that causes these two types of pattern is progressive; that is to say, the greater the distance from the gun, the thinner these two patterns will be. Furthermore, even the best of shotguns do not throw patterns of consistent density and evenness from shot to shot.

The density and evenness of a shotgun's lateral pattern is determined by the hits recorded on a stationary target facing the shooter. The density and evenness of a shotgun's longitudinal pattern can only be determined by means of a moving target or other more technical method. In theory, both lateral and longitudinal pattern tests are necessary to determine at what distance a certain gun's patterns become too thin or too uneven to score enough hits on game to kill. The lateral pattern of a shotgun tells us the story of how many shot pellets will hit game of a certain size at a certain distance, when the game is stationary or moving in a direction parallel to our line of sight.

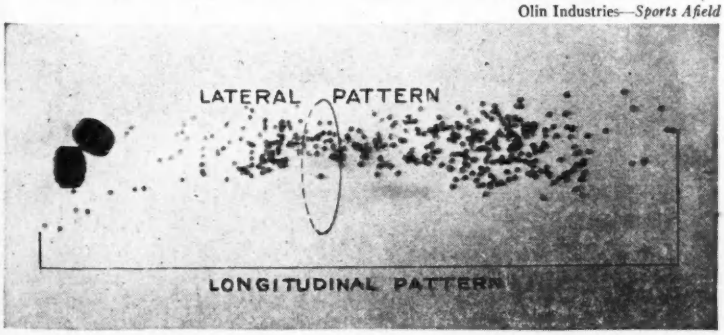
While the size of game and its distance from us is an important factor in respect to the density and evenness of the longitudinal pattern, the angle to our line of sight in which the game is moving and its speed of movement is of equally great importance and becomes most acute when game is moving at high speed at right angles to our line of sight. I mean by this that a rather thin longitudinal pattern might kill slow-moving game crossing the line of fire well enough, and not kill game moving at high speed under the same conditions.

This can be proved by mounting a large target on a vehicle that travels in a direction at right angles to the line of sight. When longitudinal patterns are recorded on the target on the moving vehicle, they will be found to become progressively elongated and thinner as the speed of the vehicle and target is increased. Thus, a gun or load that gives a very thin longitudinal pattern or, using another term, a very long shot string, will have a short killing range in respect to crossing shots at fast-moving game no matter how dense and even the lateral pattern may be.

I have still more bad news for the lads who want to know for a certainty how far their guns will kill. Even if they took all the time and trouble, which I know dang well they won't, to make a complete analysis of the lateral and longitudinal patterns of their guns, they would still not know how far their guns would kill. Shotguns do not kill by patterns alone. The shot pellets that hit game must have velocity and energy. The bad news is that a goodly number of the shot pellets that lag behind and help form the longitudinal

This high speed photograph of a shot charge in flight was taken when pellets were twelve feet from muzzle, and before wads had dropped away from pattern.

Olin Industries—*Sports Afield*



pattern or shot string are so low in velocity and energy that they can just about get through the thin skin of a rabbit.

Now, let's clear up some popular misconceptions: First, that deformed shot pellets do not fly straight and that the actual deformation of a shot pellet will cause a considerable velocity loss. Up to at least forty to fifty yards, a considerable number of deformed shot pellets fly straight and keep within the central part of the lateral patterns. A combined lateral pattern and penetration test will show that quite a few shot pellets that have low penetrability keep well within the center of the pattern. While it is true that a number of these low-velocity shot pellets show considerable deformation, it is also true that other low-velocity pellets show only small radial dents that of themselves could not account for any considerable velocity loss. Furthermore, an actual study of deformed shot, made in a well-equipped ballistics laboratory, proved that when an entire load of No. 6 shot was deformed and compared with a normal load of No. 6, the velocity loss due to deformation was only thirteen feet per second at forty yards. All of which leads me to believe that shot pellets lose their velocity due to jams that cause deformation just before the load emerges from the gun's muzzle, rather than from the actual deformation caused by these jams.

The reader will get the point by now that to find out the actual long-range killing possibilities of a shotgun or load is a big order. Both the lateral and longitudinal patterns of the gun or load will have to be recorded and analyzed and the percentage of low-velocity shot pellets that keep within the pattern found and allowed for. Coming down to earth after all this theory, the average shooter who wants to know how far his gun will kill had best make a target the size and shape of the game he intends to hunt and pattern his gun on the said target, moving it away from the gun every five or ten shots until the pattern gets as thin as he dare hope to kill well with. When this point is reached, the shooter should test the penetration of the shot by means of cardboard, paper, or wood. It's nice to take a shotgun, rated full choke by its maker, and put 75 per cent of the load of shot in a thirty-inch circle at forty yards. When a gun will do this, we know we have at least a full-choke gun at forty yards and that the chances are in our favor that the forty-yard, full-choke pattern will not thin out too fast at longer ranges. However, the dispersion of a load of shot, while progressive from the time it leaves the gun, very often changes its rate of dispersion at different ranges. For this reason, the conventional forty-yard pattern test is not conclusive evidence of how well the lateral pattern of a shotgun will hold up at longer ranges. The shotgun that will keep the core of the load together at long ranges and, at the same time, have a low percentage of low-velocity shot pellets in the center of its lateral pattern is a good bet as a long-range killer, no matter what the thirty-inch circle at forty yards says. At least it is the gun for my money every time. ● ● ●

IMPROVING YOUR SCORE

(Concluding the timely republication of NRA staffman Frank Wyman's advice to the tournament pistol shooter, condensed from a previous issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.)

NOW LET'S LOOK INTO THE MATTER of aiming point. I am one who believes you should hold at six o'clock on the bullseye in slow fire because the time limit is ample for a careful hold, and the black sights silhouetted against the white of the target show even a slight misalignment. This cannot always be seen when holding into the black.

Leaving a narrow white line between front sight and bottom of bullseye seems to me to be a mistake because the shooter is attempting to judge a white line of the same width for each shot. By leaving no white, he has a definite mark on which to hold the front sight—the exact bottom edge of the bullseye.

On the other hand, I believe the proper aiming point for Timed and Rapid Fire is in the black. Whether it is all the way up to the center or only part way up rests with you. The reason for holding into the black when shooting under short time limits is psychological. Because you *can't* see the sights plainly enough to notice a slight misalignment, you fire with better rhythm than if the front sight were clearly silhouetted. With practice, you are able to *hold* at twenty-five yards on a space no larger than the ten-ring of the Standard American Pistol Target, so if you don't see slight sight misalignments you are apt to get a good score because you concentrate upon trigger squeeze and cadence of fire.

When you have established your Slow Fire aiming point, take care that the habit of aiming too long doesn't develop. From six to ten seconds should be long enough for each shot under calm weather conditions. Should you begin holding too long, try shooting Timed fire at fifty yards to break the habit.

Hurrying around just prior to shooting is not conducive to good scores. Therefore, *prepare for an event well in advance of your turn on the firing line.* Get your squadding ticket as soon as it is ready. Then be one of the first to take your position on the firing line. Check your sight adjustment and blacken your sights, barrel, or slide, and the rear end of your gun, so no light will be reflected into your eyes. Then be sure that your hat shades your eyes from sun glare.

The man who expects to compete in tournaments should remember one thing about practice shooting: *Practice at home* and not at the tournament, even though you do arrive several days prior to the matches. More matches have been lost because a competitor was "all shot out" than ever were lost because of too little shooting on the range where the tournament is held. If you haven't learned to do it right in the months (or years) you've been practicing, how can you expect to learn it two days before tournament time?

I do not mean that it is wise to try tournament shooting on a strange range without firing a few *sighting* shots. If you have the opportunity, sight in your gun, shoot a string of Timed and another of Rapid to become accustomed to the way the targets move, but don't prolong your practice until people are talking about how "hot" you are going. The less attention your shooting attracts during practice strings, the better off you will be on tournament day. When you feel your sights are right, stop shooting until tournament time. Rest will be of a great deal more help to you than anything else. ● ● ●

EXPANDING BULLETS

By JOHN TAYLOR

THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF EXPANDING BULLETS is not merely to cause greater internal laceration, but rather to cause the bullet to remain in the animal's body and thereby expend its entire energy on the animal instead of whipping clean through and wasting its energy on a tree, anthill, rock or the ground, or whatever else eventually stops it. This is a point which is by no means always realized. I have frequently had men tell me that their rifles obviously had greater power than mine because theirs were capable of driving an expanding bullet right through an animal, whereas my bullets almost invariably remained in the animal's body. As a matter of actual fact their rifles had considerably less power than mine, and even that was being wasted. This was proved by the fact that my animals were either dropped stone dead where they stood or else did not travel more than at the very most from one-fifth to one-quarter of the distance that their beasts ran after receiving the bullet.

I wonder if anybody has ever attempted to compute just what proportion of a bullet's energy is expended on an animal, and what proportion is wasted, when it passes clean through. It would, of course, depend on a number of things: Whether or not it was of the expanding variety and, if so, of what pattern; the extent to which it set up; its weight and the weight of the animal; the range at which the shot was taken; whether or not a bone was struck; and, of course, its striking velocity at

the moment of impact. I should imagine that the account of a series of experiments on this point would make fascinating reading.

In India the old B.P. .577 Express is generally preferred for tiger to any of the Nitro Expresses in the .470 bore group, since it is claimed that its heavier lead bullet, in spite of its low velocity, inflicts more of a knockdown blow than does the metal-jacketed bullet from one of the latter rifles. The theoretical mathematical muzzle energy of a .465 or .470 is roughly 1,000 foot-pounds greater than that of the B.P. .577; but even if the bullet from one of the former rifles does go right through on a broadside shot behind the shoulder which fails to strike any bone larger than a rib, where the lead bullet from the .577 would not, who can say that it has not expended just as much energy on the animal as has the latter? It probably would not knock down the animal; but then neither would the B.P. .577.

In a letter to *Game and Gun* a correspondent stated that so far as he knew no satisfactory metal-jacketed expanding bullet had ever been invented, and that in his experience they invariably blew to pieces on impact if they happened to encounter a bone.

One is compelled to wonder with just which rifles this man has had any experience. If he had been using little feather-weight expanding bullets with ultra-high striking velocities then, naturally, an animal such as the tiger immediately becomes a pretty massive-boned animal, since he would only be shot at close ranges and these little bullets were never intended for such work. But if, on the other hand, he was using a bullet of reasonable weight, then that same tiger automatically becomes a comparatively lightly boned animal and soft-nosed metal-jacketed bullets will behave perfectly satisfactorily on him even if they do encounter a bone. It is merely ridiculous to say that *no* metal-jacketed expanding bullet will do other than disintegrate on an animal such as a lion or tiger. A sense of proportion must be maintained and a suitable weight of bullet chosen for the weight of animal against which it is to be used.

For a number of years I would use nothing but solid 480- and 500-grain bullets for buffalo. Then, one time, I ran out of solids and was compelled to carry on with plain soft-nosed bullets—plenty of lead showing at the nose. I have used them since.

The disadvantage of solids is that, when tackling a large herd, there is grave risk of the bullet passing clean through and maybe, in fact almost certainly, wounding perhaps several other members of the herd. With soft-nose 480- and 500-grain metal-jacketed bullets this does not happen. The bullet sets up perfectly and invariably remains in the buffalo's body—on a clean shot behind the shoulder it will bulge the skin on the far side; yet, at the same time, I find that these plain soft-nose bullets will kill with certainty on both head and neck shots and are equally capable of smashing the spine and also of killing practically instantaneously on a shot through the shoulder blade—on this last the buffalo drops instantly in his tracks and is incapable of rising again; he dies within a matter of a couple

From a "been there" sportsman, East African big game hunter for twenty-six years, comes this authoritative report on bullet effect, originally published in Britain's *Game & Gun*.

of minutes or so of rapid internal hemorrhage owing to the bullet and, possibly, particles of bone driving through and in amongst the large main arteries situated at the top of the heart.

Accordingly, if these bullets behave so effectively on massive-boned animals weighing upwards of a ton, how can anyone possibly suggest that they would blow to pieces on striking even a rib on a soft-skinned animal, such as a lion or tiger, the very heaviest of which do not weigh more than from 600 to 700 pounds and generally appreciably less?

The foregoing remarks are not made on the strength of killing perhaps half a dozen buffalo with expanding bullets. Towards the end of last year, having run out of ammunition for my .375 Magnum, I used my .450 No. 2 for which I had a number of soft-nose bullets (480-grain). In the four or five months during which I used it, I shot ninety-two buffalo.

As a matter of actual fact the vast majority of men who use 480- and 500-grain metal-covered bullets for lion and tiger generally prefer to use the soft-nose split variety so as to ensure the bullet setting up sufficiently on animals which can only offer a very moderate degree of resistance to such comparatively massive projectiles.

Another correspondent mentioned in a letter that he had killed an African buffalo bull at roughly 100-yards range with a 270-grain metal-covered soft-nose bullet from a .375 Magnum rifle. In reply to a question of mine, he stated that the bullet took the bull on the shoulder and killed him instantly. Now this shoulder-blade shot undoubtedly brings the animal down with spinal concussion—stuns him. But, I contend, it will only kill if it is then capable of finding its way in through the broken bone to lacerate the main arteries at the top of the heart. If it cannot do that, then the animal will eventually recover, get up, and clear off with a broken shoulder. But, if the bullet has found its way in sufficiently, then death takes place from rapid internal hemorrhage before the animal recovers consciousness. If a bullet disintegrates, therefore, it cannot kill on a shoulder shot. This is why men who use ultra high-velocity featherweight expanding bullets on fairly heavy animals fail to kill clean when placing their bullet in this spot.

For my own satisfaction I also shot a large buffalo bull with the semipointed 270-grain soft-nose bullet from my .375 Magnum, placing the shot on the shoulder. The bull was killed instantly. I recovered this bullet and found that it had "mushroomed" perfectly and that the lead core had left the metal envelope about an inch or so behind. But I cannot see that this is a fault. The primary object of the metal envelope is to enable the bullet to take the rifling at high velocities and, to a lesser extent, to prevent the bullet setting up too quickly. Accordingly, having done its duty, as this one had, what does it matter if it then parts company with the lead core? ♦ ♦ ♦

Other Small Game Calibers

(Continued from page 19)

.30-40 Krag case instead of those of the .30-'06 case as used in the .25 H. P. Special. In its twenty-six-inch barrel, forty grains of Pyro gave the eighty-seven-grain bullet .25 Remington ballistics and forty-two grains of No. 1185 gave it .250 Savage ballistics. The low-grain bullet acquired .250 Savage ballistics from thirty-nine grains of 1185, the service powder, or from thirty-seven grains of No. 300. The 117-grain bullet got into the bracket of 2,600 foot-seconds muzzle velocity with a charge of either No. 1185 or No. 15½ weighing 37.5 grains. Other rifles were made and tested up to 600 yards and loads were developed for improved ballistics with fine accuracy. All the *hubba hubba* culminated in the transformation of the new rimless wildcat into a new factory cartridge having the ballistics of the old .25 H. P. Special with eighty-seven-grain bullets, or 3,200 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and .250 Savage ballistics with the 100-grain bullet, or 2,800 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. It was called the .257 Roberts and it became deservedly popular as an all-around rifle for American game.

For varmint shooting the ten-inch twist of the .257 Roberts barrel is not capable of giving as fine accuracy with the eighty-seven-grain bullet as is the fourteen-inch twist of the .250 Savage. But the .257 Roberts gives this bullet 200 foot-seconds higher muzzle velocity, which is worth considering. With the low-grain bullet the velocities of both cartridges are practically the same. If I were restricted to a ten-inch twist in either, I should prefer the .257 Roberts solely on account of the better web and modern brass in its newer and stronger case, but the real ballistic advantage of the .257 Roberts is in its 117-grain load, none being available for the .250 Savage. At 2,650 foot-seconds muzzle velocity and with a 200-yard trajectory of less than three and one-quarter inches, this is the best game load in either cartridge and the best long-range varmint load in windy country.

Even so, our experimenters have seen fit to put a more abrupt shoulder on the fine case of the .257 Roberts and to increase its powder capacity. The only wildcats worth considering are those that will accept factory ammunition in the same chamber, as exemplified by the Ackley Improved .257 Roberts and the Weatherby .257 Magnum on the standard case. As compared with the best handloads in the factory case, these wildcats fully loaded with No. 4350 and 125-grain Barnes bullets demonstrate an appreciable improvement in field ballistics. Their exterior ballistics have been bested to my knowledge only by similar heavy handloads in the big-belted Magnum case formed with a thirty-five degree shoulder and shortened to hold about the same amount of powder, exemplified by the Barr wildcat illustrated. Similarly sighted and zeroed, the latter gave impacts over 400 yards about one-half as low (below aim at 400 yards) as the former two.

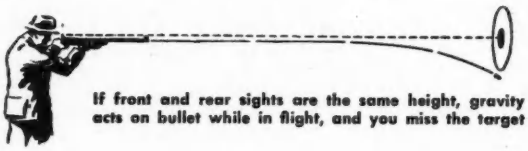
There are no equivalent light bullet loads in .32 caliber, the nearest factory loads being the .270 Winchester 100 grain at 3,540 foot-seconds muzzle velocity and the .30-'06 100 grain at 3,500 foot-seconds muzzle velocity. At long varmint ranges, the standard loads are better than these two light-bullet, top-velocity loads. In factory loads these are the 150-grain .30-'06 at 3,000 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and the 130-grain .270 Winchester at 3,120 foot-seconds. These latter two are more accurate and less sensitive to wind influences over long varmint ranges, but more likely to ricochet dangerously. ♦ ♦ ♦

The Old Coach

ADJUSTING YOUR SIGHTS

LAST MONTH I SPOKE OF SIGHTING your rifle in at twelve and one-half yards for the purpose of determining what we call "zero setting" of the rear sight. Apparently some new shooters do not know exactly what this zero setting is, or how the trick is done. As the kids say, here's the dope. First of all, the reason for "zeroing" a rifle is to obtain a sight setting, or reading, for a distance at which the bullet is still traveling parallel with the bore and the line of sight. Knowing this reading, you can add to it the number of minutes of angle for any certain distance, and for the cartridge being used, as given in the manufacturer's ballistics tables. The reason you have to add to this zero reading for say, fifty or 100 yards, is that unless the sight is raised a certain amount for distances beyond the zero setting, the trajectory of the bullet will fall inches or even feet below where you aim. I am taking it for granted that you realize that your bullet begins to drop the instant it leaves the muzzle of the barrel. The farther it travels, the farther it falls from the horizontal. Raising the rear sight is just a way of raising the muzzle of the rifle in relation to the line of sight, which in its turn causes the bullet to rise enough to compensate for the pull of gravity.

The "zero" distance of twelve and one-half yards is selected because up to that distance the fall of the bullet may be ignored. To determine this zero setting, select a good steady rest. Take a sheet of paper and carefully rule a perpendicular line in the center of the page. Next, an inch or so below the center of the sheet, rule another line at right angles to the first. Now carefully measure the distance from the center of the bore of your rifle to the top of the front sight, or the center of the scope tube, and after measuring up from your last line just this distance, rule one more line parallel to the last cross line. Take a

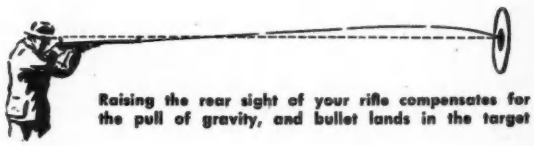


If front and rear sights are the same height, gravity acts on bullet while in flight, and you miss the target

heavy pencil or a wide-point pen and black these lines so they can easily be seen twelve and one-half yards away. Arrange the sheet on a stiff back at the exact distance, and if necessary use a plumb bob to be sure your perpendicular line is really perpendicular. So far so good.

Get into a good steady position and aim at the junction of the *top* line and your center perpendicular line. Fire each shot carefully and adjust your rear sight or your scope elevation until your bullet hits on the *lower* of the two cross lines. When the bullet strikes this line, you are zero for elevation. Now, move your windage right or left as needed to bring the bullet to the point where the lower line crosses your center line. The reading on your rear sight, or your scope mount, is then what we call zero reading. When you have obtained this zero reading for elevation and windage, you are in a position to use the figures that you will find in standard elevation tables, as given for quite a number of commonly used cartridges.

Recently, in scoring a lot of targets, we came to one on which the shooter had failed to keep his shots in a definite group. In other words, they actually circled the center of the bull, showing that the rifleman who fired the string apparently did not know the proper method of aiming. For those who may be in the same boat, let me suggest going back to the starting line and going through a set of triangulation exercises. At least two persons are needed to carry out this important bit of training. You can get full instructions and details in the Army Small Arms Manual or the NRA booklet, "Basic Small Arms Instruction." If you don't have a copy of one or the other, this offers a good excuse to buy one. The size and shape of the sighting triangles you will develop may surprise you and will give you a sound foundation from which to work. Try it. In addition to these exercises and regardless of what type of front sight you are using—post, aperture, or scope cross hairs—you may have a hard time becoming a first-class shot until you learn to use a mental picture of the front sight and the bull's-eye. For instance, when shooting a post front sight, your mind's-eye picture should be that of a small black ball sitting on the tip-top of a black post. This is all you should see. Forget all about the black dot being the bull's-eye and the post



Raising the rear sight of your rifle compensates for the pull of gravity, and bullet lands in the target

being the front sight. Push these thoughts from your mind. With an aperture front, you should have a picture of a dot centered in a circle; not your front aperture surrounding the bull's-eye. Carry this picture in your mind all the time while firing. When you settle down for the shot with this picture in your sighting eye there is no guess work. Your sights will either fit into the picture or they won't. When they don't your hold is off. When they do your hold is good. Every time your sights and the bull fit into your picture you increase the pressure on the trigger. Then when the rifle fires, if all else is correct, your bullet will be headed for the ten-ring.

Here is a final thought: Use only approved positions. Let the other fellows do the inventing. Use the rifles and sights used by experienced shooters. If you cannot afford a hundred dollar rifle, be satisfied with a thirty dollar one; don't let any shooter or advertisement tell you that these lower-priced rifles won't shoot. They will. High-priced equipment is a great help to *highly trained riflemen,* but equipment, regardless of the price, *without* training, practice, and experience, never made a rifleman. Training and the will to work with the best tools you can afford come first. After that, finer equipment if your skill warrants it. And finally, be sure you see *your own target* in those fifty and 100-yard small-bore matches. Each time be sure you see your target number. You simply can't afford to lose a single point from neglect in this hard-boiled prone game. Important matches have been lost by putting a ten on someone else's target! ◆ ◆ ◆

POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENTS

REGIONALS

There are still four Regional Tournaments to be established: both rifle and pistol in the Northeastern Region, the pistol in the North Central Region, and the pistol in the Midwestern Region. All clubs in each region have been notified to this effect and there is still hope that these will be established. Any club in a position to sponsor such matches in these regions write the NRA immediately.

As soon as you know that you are going to the Regional in your area, write the person to be contacted for programs. Regional sponsors are doing a fine job of providing room reservations but you must tell them you are coming in order to have a hotel, rooming house, or tourist camp reservation made for you. With the housing situation as it is, reservations will be at a premium and late-comers may find them all gone. Get your name in early.

Another reason for contacting the club sponsor as soon as possible is that several Regional Tournaments are required by limited facilities to restrict their entries to a certain maximum. Late-comers may find the registration list all filled up.

The sponsors of Regional Tournaments this year deserve the gratitude of all competitors. Even though some ranges had to be built and others had to be extensively repaired, the sponsoring clubs took on the job just so shooters could have the Regionals in 1946. It would have been easier to hope someone else would sponsor them. They are doing a grand job and our hats are off to them.

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A3'S AVAILABLE THRU DCM

Effective May 1, 1946, the U. S. .30 Caliber Rifle M1903 Type S, with straight stock, has been deleted from items available for purchase on sales approved by the DCM. Orders for this rifle (re-conditioned) now on hand are being approved but no further orders for this rifle can be accepted. Also, no further orders for the U. S. .22 Caliber Springfield Rifle will be approved.

At the same time changes were made in other rifles available as follows: The U.S. .30 Caliber Rifle M1903A1, with pistol grip stock, is offered for sale as a re-conditioned rifle at $42.22 each. No new A1's are available. The U.S. .30 Caliber Rifle M1903A3 has been made available for sale at $50.00 each. The A3 is sold as being in new gun condition. For description of these rifles you are referred to the "DCM Shoppers' Guide" in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, April 1946.

On May 1 the DCM procedure on handling sales was changed. Under the revised system the ordnance depot receives an approval of sale on ODCM Form 5 direct from the DCM and the purchaser receives an information copy. The ordnance depot then advises purchaser of funds to be remitted for items available and makes shipment upon receipt of funds. For the information of purchaser, details of procedure will be found on reverse side of information copy of ODCM Form 5. This will result in better service to NRA members.

While changes have been made to simplify procedure and the sales force in the DCM office augmented by twelve clerks, the volume of incoming mail has remained at such a high figure that the DCM is about ninety days behind. The best estimate at this time is that they expect to remain ninety days behind until the volume of incoming mail drops to the point that more can be processed than is received. Up to May 1 this year approximately eighty-five thousand pieces of mail have been handled in that office and indications point to a continuation of this unprecedented volume.

DCM would like to attend to your communications the day they arrive and look forward hopefully, but not expectantly, to that time. In the meantime your patience is requested.

It is requested that, knowing the situation, purchasers anticipate their requirements and submit orders in sufficient quantity per order that the number of smaller orders can be reduced. Processing a small order takes about as much time as a large order. The combined efforts of the NRA members in making one large order take the place of two or more smaller orders would prove to be very effective in facilitating service to NRA members.

MORE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SPONSOR SHOOTING

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Civil Air Patrol have notified their unit organizations that rifle and pistol shooting is desirable recreation and that shooting clubs should be organized in each VFW Post and CAP Patrol. Word regarding this has gone out to VFW Posts through a story in the VFW magazine, *Foreign Service*, and to CAP Patrols by frequent mention in the CAP *News Bulletin*.

Every NRA club and NRA member should help in this move to organize VFW and CAP rifle and pistol clubs. Such new groups will help create more shooting interest in every community, resulting in additional teams in leagues and more competitors at matches. A little work on the part of everyone and many clubs will be organized and numerous individuals brought into the shooting game.

If you are a VFW or CAP member, contact your officers and see that steps are taken to organize a rifle and pistol club. If you are not a member of the VFW or CAP, find out if any of your friends are members and have them contact their officers on the matter. Or better yet, perhaps they will arrange for you to talk to their club officers.

The important thing is for every VFW Post and every CAP Patrol to know that NRA clubs and individual members in their community will help organize their clubs and get them started with a shooting program. Many groups fail to organize a club simply because they do not know how to proceed. You can give them the needed assistance.

Your NRA Headquarters will provide the necessary literature and instructions, sending it either to you or to anyone you suggest in the VFW or CAP.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN needs a dozen good photographers—men who are as handy with a shutter as they are with their pet shootin' irons. Here's the story:

We need pictures on every shooting subject, for use in the magazine. Hunting, large and small game, range and competitive scenes, shooters in the news, good outdoor scenes; in fact, any *good* photograph which you think could be used in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

The NRA is willing to pay from one to five dollars for black-and-white photos, and up to $25 for usable Kodachromes. The quality must be on a par with average professional

work, and negatives should be sent with black-and-white prints. These will be retained for our files. Prints submitted without negatives will be paid for at half of the above rates. No color prints are wanted, unless they are of exceptional quality. We prefer transparencies, preferably good 35-mm Kodachromes or larger sizes. Kodachromes for cover use must be vertical to conform to RIFLEMAN cover proportions. Thirty-five millimeter black-and-white negatives are not wanted unless they can compete with prints from negatives of larger size.

Here's your chance to turn your photo hobbying into a paying proposition. Take your camera to the range, to tournaments and on your hunting trips, and let us see the result. We will either return your pictures promptly, postpaid, or mail you a check for those we accept. Send them to THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., Attention Photo Editor.

Go through your negative files of the last year or two, and send whatever you think would be of RIFLEMAN quality. The NRA has constant need for shooting pictures, and can use them regularly.

OPEN ROAD RIFLE MATCH

Entries can now be made in the 14th Annual Open Road Rifle Match by anyone under 19 years of age. For entry blanks and rules of the match, write to: Rifle Match, Open Road for Boys, 136 Federal St., Boston 10, Mass.

Don Vanderveer, of Perry, Ohio, is shown in prone position using the artificial left arm fashioned for him by his instructor, D. M. Coppock.

A HANDICAPPED JUNIOR

Don Vanderveer, member of the Perry (Ohio) High School Junior Rifle Club, lost his left arm midway between the elbow and the shoulder when he was younger. His rifle club instructor, D. M. Coppock, made an artificial arm to enable Don to shoot. This arm is constructed from a 4x4" piece of white pine, a 3" stove pipe elbow, some cloth, a hinge, a piece of rubber sponge, and a football player's shoulder pad.

The white pine is fashioned to resemble the left hand supporting a rifle. The stove pipe elbow is hinged to allow adjustment to any angle of a normal elbow. The cloth is used to pad the stump before fitting the pipe to it and the sponge is attached on the bottom of the elbow to prevent it from slipping when supporting the rifle. The arm is kept in place by strapping to an old football shoulder pad.

Mr. Coppock says this arm is a very crude affair but it does allow Don to shoot with the rifle club.

Ricochets

WELL, WHY NOT?

Saugus, Massachusetts.

Editor:

Our Small Arms Firing School, left over from the war, is active in this way: we are teaching new members, and they are coming in fast, the standard course of instruction. But all of my instructors are "standing by" since we plan to convert our school into a junior club.

I am surprised that a plan of this type has not been suggested before this. Clubs that were qualified to hold rifle schools under the NRA Pre-Induction Training Program have a lot of equipment that is not being used now unless they are doing what we are.

I suggest that clubs use their wartime equipment for training juniors. This is really important. Kids come to the range with their mouths watering to "just fire one shot." Let's give them a break. They are our future club members.

Harry Kennard.

"MOLLYCODDLES"

Ogunquit, Maine.

Editor:

The cities are full of what Teddy Roosevelt would call "mollycoddles," like the man that lives next door to me in the summertime. A professor and a fine man, but one who wouldn't put his hand on a firearm any more than he would put it in vitriol. To him a gun is not a double-barreled, sixteen-gauge, full-choked L. C. Smith, and a rifle is not a Model 70, .30-'06 bolt-action Winchester; they are merely lethal weapons.

They joyously join up with movements, like that which this Hawkes advances, with the idea that if they can abolish all guns nobody will get shot. They use just as little sense as that—no matter what a wow they may be on art. Criminals, who don't pay any attention to the law of course, will, in some vague, mysterious manner, lose their guns as soon as they get their law passed. The good man I mention next door would resist, I believe, if a thief invaded his home, but his only notion of self-defense would be to scald the intruder with hot water.

It seems deplorable that these people should impose their silly drivel on the rest of us. Possession of firearms by citizens has prevented a great many crimes—and what doesn't happen you don't hear of.

Ray P. Hanscom.

POSITION SHOOTING

Youngstown, Ohio.

Editor:

For three years during the war our club conducted a small arms firing school giving NRA instruction courses to the Nation's young men. We taught them four positions—standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone. Now you say the accent is still on training—training the youngsters, training anyone who wants to learn to shoot. And teach them four positions. Our club, our league, and most of the shooters I know prefer to do their indoor shooting in four positions. The NRA and the Army recognize and sanction four positions.

Yet the NRA's indoor league competitions only recognize two positions—prone and standing—and only scores in those two positions are included in the indoor classification booklet!

What gives—a gradual return to the old days of the Scheutzen rifle and the back position? What is the incentive to learn and practice the four positions? What is the incentive to teach newcomers the four positions?

Here is one place where the NRA should assert its leadership in the shooting sport and standardize the gallery course of fire all over the nation—and standardize it with four positions.

Sure, it is hard at first on the creaky bones (and bones not so creaky, too), but isn't conditioning part of any sport? Let's not make rifle shooting a sport for decrepits who can't do anything else.

Roger R. Allan.

TWELVE O'CLOCK WINDS

Springfield, Massachusetts.

Editor:

I crank my sights enough because of my ineptness, but I would be cranking from now to forevermore if I tried to follow the wind doping hints in the May issue. Comes a twelve o'clock wind and the Old Coach tells me to crank my sights down, while Edwards Brown tells me to crank up. Who's right?

Albert Rickey.

We're sorry if we confused you in the May issue on what happens to your bullets in a twelve o'clock wind. Here is a quotation from The Old Coach on Page 34: "A twelve o'clock wind will blow your bullet up." On the other hand a quotation from "Wind Dopes" on Page 20 reads as follows: "Theoretically, a twelve o'clock wind will make your shots go low." Brown, in this article, goes on to say: "Don't depend on this, however. Don't try to arbitrarily allow for elevation until you know the particular rifle range on which you are firing. Here is where the terrain enters the picture and you may get fooled." That word "theoretically" and the last quote from "Wind Dopes" indicates that there is plenty of room for difference of opinion on this up or down question in the face of a twelve o'clock wind. Bucking a wind slows down a bullet and the slower a bullet travels over a given range, the more it will drop. Therefore, the first quotation from "Wind Dopes" with the "theoretically" stuck in there, leaving some leeway, is correct. But on your particular range you may find that the Old Coach is also right. Are you more confused?—ED.

(Continued on page 42)

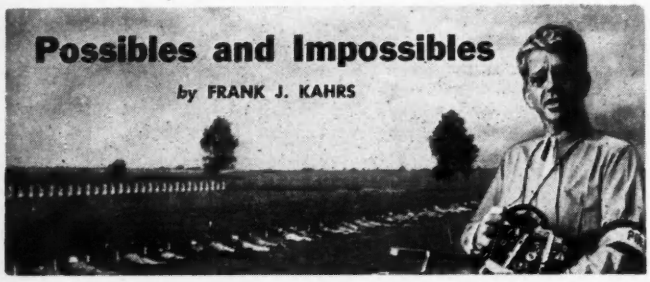
A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

Remington

VOL. 9, NO. 6

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, JUNE, 1



Possibles and Impossibles

by FRANK J. KAHRS

Every once in a while I receive a letter from some old-timer who reads the column. Why, I never know. But out there in the great open spaces where a man sometimes has to depend on his rifle for meat for the table, and where the nights are long, I suppose a fellow has to read about everything he can find, and probably feels an urge to do some writing himself. Well, anyhow, that's the way I figure it.

This particular chap, who wrote to me sometime back, had written in for a set of the Currier & Ives prints and made some very interesting observations on old style shooting. At the moment, he happens to be 77 years young. At any rate, he was born in Scotland in May, 1869, and came to this country when he was three years of age. Shortly after he learned to shoot and says he enjoys hunting better than eating. With this, I cannot agree. After eating, I like to hunt.

He came to the Washington territory in 1888 and considering himself an average good shot, attended a rifle shooting match in the fall of that year. His memory tells him that the distance shot at was 10 rods, and the one who shot the nearest to the bull's-eye was considered the best shot. It so happened that there was one man there who said he would give our hero 15 yards if he would allow him to shoot from a rest, because he wasn't so hot in the offhand position, while our hero was.

Well, after this chap had proceeded to lie down on his back with his feet stretched full length, and the muzzle of the gun between the crotch formed by his feet, he touched 'er off and he put his shot very close to the tack in the bull of the target. The match was over.

I've seen some late photographs of this man and I don't know what kind of medicine he uses, or how he lives normally, but he is the youngest old man I have ever seen!

Incidentally, he tells me an interesting story about being out driving with an old friend in the horse and buggy days about 1910 when he observed a large stump of a cedar tree, which stood on what is now the cement highway between Ferndale and Burlington in Washington State. In passing the stump, he noticed a large hollow therein and suggested that they unhitch the horse and put him in the stump. Imagine a cedar tree stump so large that you could park a horse in the middle of it and have lots of room besides!

I have no way of measuring that stump but judging by the size of the horse, I would say that the outside circumference of that stump would be not less than 50 ft. That is some cedar stump and it is not a tall tale either. Knowing how long it takes a cedar tree to grow to any size at all, I would say this tree must have been 1,000 years old. I have the photograph in case anyone wants proof.

* * *

The other day one of my undercover men sent me a clipping from the "Portland Oregonian" with a full column regular headline story of a prominent rifle league. You'd think you were reading the account of a baseball game in mid-season with the standings of the team, percentages, etc. Boy, they sure do things up right out there in the Northwest and that's the way to stir up interest in the rifle shooting game because in no other way can those who compete know what is going on among the various teams and individuals.

Usually a fellow goes to a shoot and enjoys shooting in the various matches, but unless the secretary of the club takes the trouble of sending him a bulletin or advising him of the results, he doesn't know the results, or who was high individual or anything.

Well, anyhow, the "Portland Oregonian" is not going to lose any circulation by continuing to publish and feature rifle league shooting.

MORE ACTIVE SH... RIFLE CLUBS T...

REMINGTON DESIGNS ARMS AN... AMMUNITION TO MEET SPECIFI... MATCH REQUIREMENTS

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., June, 1946. The finely balanced Remington Model 513T target rifle reflects precision workmanship from butt plate to muzzle. It carries adjustable sights, the new Remington easy-operating bolt and a detachable six-shot magazine. An adjustable trigger stop assures smooth, crisp, trigger pull. A high thick comb promotes easy, natural aim.

Famous Remington Police Targetmaster and Palma Kleanbore 22 match ammunition are back again in limit... quantities. Careful testing an... closely supervised productio... assure their accuracy!

Small bore rifle shooters ma... rest assured that the produ... tion of Remington target rif... and the finest quality mat... ammunition, will be increas... just as rapidly as materi... are released for that purpo...

Palma, Kleanbore and Targetmast... are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remingto... Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport... Conn.

THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CLUB . . . *Alibi Ike*

MEN... AND...

OUTDOOR... SHOW... AND G...

LITTLE... Take it fr... . . . the w... is through... the rifle ... outdoor gr... satisfied s...

A grill ... inexpensiv... a little mo... grids are ... materials ... bers will ... struction. ... steaks or ... boost any...

FREE ... PRINTS ... TO RI...

Ex-serv... have a ch... enlargem... rier & Iv... offered r... them by ... motion ... Arms Co... port 2, C...

...gton News

...TICUT, JUNE, 1946

WEATHER:
GOOD FOR GRASS AND WEEDS, SO KEEP THE FIRING LINE MOWED

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

...E SHOOTING PROGRAMS SPUR ...S TO IMPROVE FACILITIES

MEMBERS PITCH IN TO PREPARE RANGES AND GROUNDS FOR OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

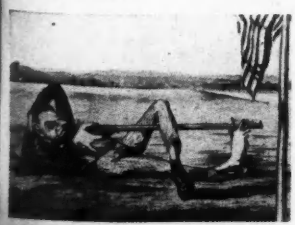
OUTDOOR GRILL STEALS SHOW AT SHOOTS AND GET-TOGETHERS

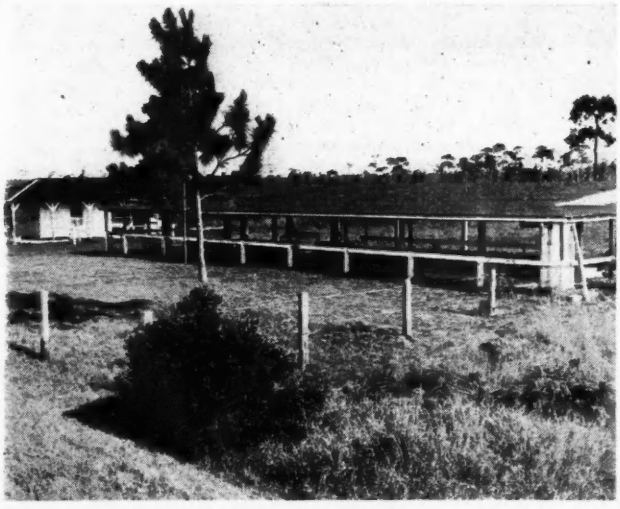
LITTLEBURG, U. S. A. Take it from the little woman . . . the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. And the rifle club that boasts an outdoor grill boasts a horde of satisfied shooters!

A grill is easy to build, and inexpensive. Rough field stone, a little mortar and a few metal grids are just about all the materials needed. And members will gladly help with construction. The odor of broiling steaks or sizzling hot dogs will boost any shooter's morale!

FREE CURRIER & IVES PRINTS STILL AVAILABLE TO RETURNING G.I.'s

Ex-servicemen who did not have a chance to send for color enlargements of famous Currier & Ives shooting prints, as offered recently, can still get them by writing to Rifle Promotion Section, Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.





This is the way smooth, level firing points should look, with proper sodding and shade trees growing on the "ready" line.

LUXURY AT THE FIRING POINT HELPS BUILD HIGHER SCORES

CENTERVILLE, U. S. A. A worried shooter is a poor one, and nothing will wrinkle a shooter's brow faster than a rocky, irregular, uncomfortable patch of ground at the firing line. For this reason, rifle clubs are now giving considerable attention to the planning and care of firing points.

To assure flat, comfortable shooting position, firing points should be rolled out and carefully tended. Many clubs have found it worthwhile to place sod on all firing points. For the sod helps drainage, discourages erosion and contributes to the shooter's comfort.

If the firing line is not covered, shade trees are a help. And a really considerate club planning committee will prescribe shade trees for the "ready line" at least. Remington experts will be glad to make suggestion or comments on any plan that a club may design.

MIDDLETOWN, U. S. A. Until today, there have been very few "fancy" shooting clubs in the country. But now there is a strong trend towards cleaning up and making the club more attractive . . . the kind of range and range house where shooters are proud to take their wives and friends. And returning GI's have paved the way by showing the old-timers how Uncle Sam looks after his ranges!

SHOOTING VS. WEATHER

To encourage all-weather shooting, firing points have been covered. The covering usually consists of a simple wooden frame covered with roofing material. Target frames have been patched, repaired or replaced where necessary. Even with the shortage of materials there have always been second hand or reclaimed materials handy to do the job well. And a coat or two of paint protects these range fixtures from the weather . . . helps the appearance of the range.

SAFETY

For safety's sake, the backstops can stand a going over. Pebbles and stones may cause deflected bullets. A chewed-up wooden backstop may need a few more logs . . . or it can be filled with sand. To prevent firing points from deteriorating into dirty mud pits, many clubs have rolled them . . . even added sod.

Shade trees and other comforts for the "ready line" are a credit to any range. A good driveway and adequate parking space are also important.

RICOCHETS

(Continued from page 39)

TAKE HEED!

Washington, D. C.

Editor:

I want to thank THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN for the continued use of a good set of 20-20 eyes. Several years ago I read an article which advocated the use of shooting glasses when firing all big bore bolt-action rifles. The article made sense and I started using them..

Yesterday, while firing some F.A. 1929 ammo in my '03 Springfield sporter, a case ruptured from the edge of the primer to ¾" up from the base. As the rifle is in good shape and the head space has been gauged within the last 300 rounds, I feel sure only the case was at fault. It was my first experience of that kind and the sensation was alarming—a great amount of hot gases and molten brass came back through the bolt and spattered my glasses, in addition to burning and drawing blood from the unprotected parts of my nose, cheek, and forehead. I feel sure I would have been permanently blinded had I not been wearing glasses.

John P. McAdams.

225,000 QUALIFIED SAFELY

Headquarters ASF Training Center, Camp Crowder, Missouri.

Editor:

It is with a deep sense of appreciation that I call to your attention the tremendous contribution made by members of your Association to the armed forces of this Nation through the establishment and operation of small arms ranges here at Camp Crowder during the past four years.

Early in 1942 after the War Department ordered combat training for Army Service Forces a request was made to your Association for qualified instructors to teach rifle marksmanship at this installation. A group of fifteen volunteers was sent here in response to our request. These men were largely responsible for qualifying more than 225,000 troops on several ranges without a single fatality over a four year period, an outstanding record.

B. A. Anderson, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding.

ANY EXTRA COPIES?

Lancashire, England.

Editor:

Since the outbreak of this war I have not seen a copy of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN except for one in 1940 mentioning the fall of France. Dollars are quite "out" and I am, therefore, unable to make any payment, but it occurs to me that surely one of your readers has some files which he no longer requires. Can you do anything for me?

A. C. Drummond.

Reader, do you have the copies which Mr. Drummond desires? If you would supply him with these, he can be reached at the following address: 15, Hartley Street, Ulverston, Lancashire, England.—EDITOR.

THE SHOOTER'S PREDICAMENT

Herrin, Illinois.

Editor:

In the Dope Bag of the March issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN is an article, "The Gunsmith's Predicament," in which J. S. R. takes the customer to task for unnecessary correspondence which consumes too much of the gunsmith's time.

I believe the customer also might have a gripe in this situation. For instance, I sent a Colt and new .357 Magnum cylinder to a gunsmith for installation of a new barrel, cylinder, repair on hammer notches, and reblue. This was almost nine months ago. He promised delivery before Christmas, 1945, but hasn't delivered the gun yet.

There have been quite a number of letters exchanged on this deal, but the gunsmith was given complete instructions before he started on the job. It is just a matter of the gunsmith not completing his work promptly.

Paul Popham.

MICHIGAN PROGRAM

Baudette, Minnesota.

Editor:

As a former Minnesota State Game Warden, I want to salute the very laudable program of the Michigan Conservation Department in training their Wardens for the task of teaching our young, future sportsmen in the safe and competent handling of firearms by giving them a thorough NRA small-arms instruction course.

This sort of constructive work by the Wardens will not only save lives and limbs, but also afford the Wardens a splendid opportunity to dispel the popular notion that the Conservation Warden is a guy to hate, run away from, who is bent on spoiling your "fun afield."

AMMUNITION COMPONENTS

It is necessary that the DCM discontinue approving sales for powder and ammunition components. No cans suitable for powder shipment are presently obtainable. Ammunition components are not being manufactured by government arsenals and depot stocks are depleted. No further orders can be accepted, and your cooperation in this regard is requested.

Should components again become available, details will be announced. Until such time inquiries regarding components must necessarily be disregarded.

The Minnesota Conservation Department would do well to adopt a similar program for the training of competent instructors for the youngsters of our State.

Hans W. Kruger, U. S. Customs Patrol Inspector.

WE'RE GLAD TO HEAR THIS

Presidio, Texas.

Editor:

At our monthly pistol shoot I overheard many favorable comments concerning the May issue of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. One was, "THE RIFLEMAN this month is the best in four years. What do we care about the paper it is published on as long as it is good reading?"

No apology for the paper is necessary.

Leon P. Fisher.

BOOK REVIEW

GAME BAG

By NASH BUCKINGHAM

Written for a lonely evening when the hunting season is months away, Nash Buckingham's latest book will appeal to the outdoorsman who is inclined to be sentimental over dogs and pleasant memories of days afield.

In this collection of short stories the author is attentive to the little things which are frequently forgotten by the returning hunter or fisherman whose spectacular shot or trout rise dims the recollection of lesser glories, such as the sound of a stream, or trout sizzling in the frying pan.

His stories are seasoned with conservation views of a higher quality than those found in the works of most outdoor writers. I especially favor his persuading hunters to be satisfied with less than the legal limit. Completion of a bag limit to that last bird, in Buckingham's opinion, should not be a criterion of the day's success.

Along with stories of trout fishing near a haunted mountain cabin, an alcoholic bear and a pack of "high-priced dogs," there is a laugh provoking tale concerned with shady dog-dealing and a last minute balance of justice.

Game Bag should be thoroughly enjoyed by most hunters and fishermen.—J. S. R.

(Cloth, 11 illustrations, 186 pages, $2.50. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons. Available through the NRA Book Department.)

STOLEN GUNS

One S & W Military & Police .38 Special #587822, notched across bottom of grip and several worn spots in bluing. Reward for information leading to its recovery. Robert O. Bennett, 11 Parkwood Road, Baltimore 22, Md.

One .22 H. & R. Sportsman Revolver #51036. L. M. Gable, Valley View, Pennsylvania.

One .45 S & W Model 17 revolver #81957, name and organization carved on butt. Generous reward for recovery. Major W. H. Oakey, Jr., Hertford, N. C.

One Winchester Model 65 .219 Bee with 330 Weaver Scope. This is a custom built gun. J. E. Twigger, 8106 SW 47th Street, Portland 1, Oregon.

One Walther PP #984834, .22 caliber, lost or stolen in Washington, D. C., April 14. $20 reward for return. Hal McFarland, % NRA.

One Colt Woodsman #147346. Capt. Coy Cowan, TSBPE 4, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio.

Elmer E. Davis

Another familiar figure will be missing from the firing line when the National Matches are resumed. Elmer E. Davis died at his home in Toledo, Ohio, on April 9, after a short illness. He was 81 years of age.

A prominent attorney, Mr. Davis aided in the reorganization and incorporation of the Ohio State Rifle and Pistol Association a number of years back. He was active in the organization of the Northwestern Ohio Rifle League and was a charter member of the Toledo Rifle and Pistol Club.

He is survived by his widow.

Ralph O. Hensley

Ralph O. Hensley, a Life Member of the NRA, passed away at his home in Edinburg, Illinois, on March 3, 1946. He had been seriously ill for about five weeks. A Christian County school teacher fifteen years, he was also a member of the Edinburg Methodist Church, Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodsman Lodges. He is survived by his wife and son.

John LeRoy Baker

John LeRoy Baker, a well-known hunter, fisherman and shooter and Life Member of the NRA passed away March 11, while returning to his home in Mechanicsville, N. Y., after a winter in Florida.

William A. Titherington

Word has only recently been received that William A. Titherington, only son of George Titherington, well-known barrel-maker of Stockton, California, died on November 20, 1945, at the age of 31. William Titherington had been raised in an atmosphere redolent of guns and burning powder. He had been a member of the NRA for many years. At the time of his death he was assistant manager of the Oakland plant of the Continental Can Company. But despite the pressure of wartime duties he had maintained his interest in shooting and his membership in the local American Legion Rifle Club. His widow and children are now residing with George Titherington at Stockton.

Robert Stryker

Robert Stryker, vice-president of the Cottonwood Rifle Club, Red Bluff, California, was killed in a plane crash March 24. He leaves his wife Ruth, three sons, Robert, Raymond, and Ronald, and one daughter, Caroline. During the war, he gave freely of his time and effort to help the young men of his community in the pre-induction small-bore training classes conducted by his club.

He is mourned by his family and greatly missed by all his friends.

Robert Murphy, of Far Rockaway, N. Y., High School, who scored 193 to win the National Interscholastic Individual Championship. Robert's fine shooting won the General Morgan Trophy for his school and, for himself, a miniature of it.

HIGHLAND PARK ACTIVITIES

On April 4th, a banquet was held by the Highland Park, Michigan, Recreation Departments' junior rifle clubs, assisted by the Minutemen of Highland Park. This senior rifle club helps with the sponsorship of the two junior rifle clubs, the Rifleteers and the Jinx Club. All three of these clubs have been very active in giving NRA approved instruction to men, women, boys, and girls in Highland Park. At present, the clubs all use the same small five-point range located behind the boiler room of the Highland Park Junior College and they desire to show the various civic organizations that rifle shooting is a real sport enjoyed by entire family groups and that the club's training courses do reach out to embrace them all.

Forrest D. Bunker is Instructor for both junior clubs, while Helen Loudenslager capably serves as Chief Instructor and Secretary for the senior club.

This banquet, the fourth in a series held at the Highland Park Junior College, included about 140 mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters, besides many prominent citizens.

These people gathered to hear the talks of the presidents of both junior clubs, Sam Merigian of the Jinx Club and Herbert Offord of the Rifleteers, and see them award the NRA Attendance Certificates to thirty-two boys and girls. Mr. H. W. Cowgel, President of the Minutemen, presented 9 Marksman Certificates ranging from 1st to 3rd Class Rifleman. Mr. Brakeman was then introduced and presented four NRA Merit War Service Awards to members of the Rifleteers and Jinx Junior Rifle Club and the outstanding Merit Award to Mr. Forrest D. Bunker.

Had the banquet and training courses obtained results? The officials of the Recreation Department and with other city "fathers" were generous in their appreciation to Mr. Bunker and Mrs. Loudenslager for creating such an interest in a "family" sport.

INTERSCHOLASTIC

Robert Murphy, of the Far Rockaway, New York, High School Team, scored a 193 over the 10-shot prone and 10-shot standing course to win the National Interscholastic Individual Match, fired April 13, 1946, in eighteen sectional shoulder-to-shoulder meets throughout the country, and was awarded the General Morgan Trophy in token of his achievement.

In the team event the Christian Brothers' Academy Team #1, of Albany, New York, scored a 747 x 800 to win the Alamo Trophy awarded to the 1946 winner of the National Interscholastic Team Championship. Members of the Christian Brothers' Academy Team and their scores were: William Clarke, 183; Edward Urschel, 188; Arthur Herold, 189; and Edward Lasch, 187.

Second place team awards were taken by the Stadium High School of Tacoma, Washington, with 745. Team #2 of the Christian Brothers' Academy came up third with 745.

Lorraine Barns, of Oakmont, Pennsylvania, and member of the Oakmont High School team, scored 184 to win the medal as high-scoring girl in the National Interscholastic.

The girls team of the Malden, Massachusetts, High School, whose score was 676, captured the awards as high girls team in the team competition. Team members and their scores were: Ginnie Shahbas, 168; Audrey Tindahl, 169; Ruth Sandbert, 166; and Diana Setmore, 173. The New Haven, Connecticut, High School Girls' Team scored 664 to place second, while third high girls' team was the Ann Arbor, Michigan, High School with 660.

Lorraine Barns, member of the Oakmont, Pa., High School Rifle Team, who was high girl in the National Interscholastic Individual Rifle Match.

TOURNAMENT REVIEWS

Using a newly designed target carrier system which incorporates the "disappearing target" principle, the National Capital Rifle and Pistol Club conducted another in their series of gallery pistol matches on April 14. There were 71 competitors in attendance. "Smitty" Brown won the Slow Fire match, scoring 186. John Layton and Jim Chapman were second and third with 182 and 180. In the Timed Fire match Willie Goebel was first with 193; second with the same score was Layton. Bob Mansell fired 194 to win the Rapid Fire event. Henry Leland and Jim Chapman were second and third with 193 each. Brown again won first place in the Three Stage match with a 285. Mansell was second, 283, and CWO Avant Brannock was third, 275.

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In the Fifth Annual Tri-State Gallery Tournament, held March 31 in Madison, South Dakota, Les Ferley was winner of the aggregate with 747. Leo Vilz was second with 747, and Orrin Brendal third with 745. High Sharpshooter with 722 was Lawrence Krueger. 693 won first place in the Marksman class for Leo Johnson.

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"Doc" E. O. Swanson was winner of the rifle aggregate at the annual gallery match of the Minnesota State Association, the first since 1941, held April 7 in Minneapolis. C. T. Peterson, of St. Paul, was winner of the pistol aggregate. First place in the rifle team event went to the Minneapolis Rifle Club. The St. Paul Pistol Club was winner of the pistol team affair.

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The First Annual Casa Colina Rifle Tournament held in Glendale, California, on March 31 turned over all net proceeds from the match to the Casa Colina Hospital for Crippled Children. Johnnie Miller of Los Angeles won top place in the Grand Aggregate by scoring a 1193. Close behind with 1192 and 1191 were second place Bob Perkins and third place Archie Bell. Carl Walther was high Expert with 1184. Whitey Bayer copped the Sharpshooter class with his 1181; high Marksman was Bill Edwards with 1168.

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R. C. Pope, a Dallas, Texas, shooter of long standing in the top brackets, was winner of the Grand Aggregate in the Austin Rifle and Pistol Club tournament held April 7 in Austin, Texas, scoring 1581 x 1600. Other class winners in the Aggregate were: Master, August O. Reuter of Houston, 1580; Expert, Hugh White of Dallas, Sharpshooter, David Beban of Houston; Marksman, J. E. Welch of Houston.

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The Mid-West Gallery Rifle Championship Trophy, awarded to the aggregate winner of the Mid-West Gallery Rifle Championship Tournament, held March 16 and 17 in Chicago, Illinois, went to Donald Prins of Holland, Michigan. His score was 1054 x 1100. Russell Kliess also of Holland, scored 1052 to place second to Prins. Raymond Swansen of Chicago, 1942 winner, was third with 1051.

(Continued on page 45)

COMING EVENTS

Classes of registered tournaments are indicated as follows: Class AA—National Matches; A—Regional match; B—State Championships and large district matches; C—Local. Unregistered and Unclassified tournaments are so marked, as are tournaments requiring pre-entries or limiting entries.

Idaho (B), June 8—State Pistol Championship. William Buskett, 2202 Madison Avenue, Boise.

Idaho (B), June 9—Idaho State Small-bore Championship. William Buskett, 2202 Madison Avenue, Boise.

Michigan (Unregistered), June 9—Junior Outdoor Rifle Match. Clayton D. McNeil, 219 Superior, Wyandotte.

Iowa (C), June 9—4th Annual Mississippi Valley Pistol Tournament. Carl Prevratil, 2018 West 10th St., Davenport.

New York (C), June 9—Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Earl H. Matteson, Oneida.

Minnesota (C), June 9—Class "C" Rifle. Art M. Jenson, Albert Lea.

Maryland (C), June 9—Victory Small-bore Rifle Tournament, at Rossville. James Ambrose, 615 E Street, Sparrows Point. *Limited Entries.*

Wisconsin (C), June 9—Milwaukee District Small-bore Matches. J. Gruber, 2265 N. 64th St., Milwaukee 13.

Pennsylvania (C), June 9—Second Annual Spring Small-bore Championship, at Chester. Mary Jane Oster, 2800 Township Line, Llanerch.

Illinois (C), June 9—Spring Pistol Tournament. Robert Jordan, 50 Waukegan Road, Deerfield.

Washington (C), June 9—Buddy League Pistol Tournament. W. F. Day, Police Headquarters, Seattle.

Connecticut (B), June 14, 15, 16—Conn. State Small-bore Championships, at East Haven. A. J. Griffin, Middlefield.

New York (C-Junior), June 15—Junior Registered Small-bore Tournament, at Bethpage. Val Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

Maryland (B), June 15, 16—7th Annual Maryland Revolver & Pistol Championships. Chief Marcus H. Miles, % Police Dept., Sparrows Point.

Oklahoma (B), June 15, 16—Magic Empire Rifle Tournament. Mrs. H. T. Engelson, 224 S. Allegheny, Tulsa. *Limited Entries.*

California (B), June 15, 16—Western States Rifle Championship. C. DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

Missouri (C), June 16—Small-bore Rifle. H. Winston McClure, 7046 Dale Ave., St. Louis.

California (C), June 16—San Francisco Police Dept. Monthly Pistol Tournament, at Lake Merced. Emile Dutil, 324 16th Ave., San Francisco.

Pennsylvania (C), June 16—LeHigh Valley Summer Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Alfred M. Newhard, 111 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown.

Pennsylvania (C), June 16—Outdoor Small-bore. Roy S. Bower, 420 East 23rd, Erie.

Illinois (C), June 16—Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Byron Putnam, 814 Ellis Avenue, Wheaton.

Oregon (C), June 16—Outdoor Rifle Tournament. Herb T. Brown, 3818 N. E. Shaver St., Portland.

Colorado (B), June 16—State Small-bore Rifle Matches. L. F. Markle, 1006 Olive St., Denver.

Minnesota (B), June 16—Minnesota Small-bore Championship, at Mora. Basil Irwin, Sandstone.

California (B), June 22-23—Calif. State Pistol & Revolver Championships, at Glendale. Russ Wisler, 543 Clay St., San Francisco.

Ohio (B), June 22, 23—Small-bore Rifle. Virgil G. Bruner, 543 Cedarhurst Avenue, Dayton.

Wisconsin (Unregistered), June 23—Milwaukee District High Power Matches. J. Gruber, 2265 N. 64th St., Milwaukee 13.

Colorado (C), June 23—Pistol Tournament, at Englewood. Gladys F. Baxter, 2600 S. Fillmore Street, Denver 10.

New York (B), June 23—New York State Championship Pistol Matches. D. E. Whitbeck, 122 Morris Street, Albany.

Pennsylvania (C), June 23—Annual Mid-Summer Small-bore, at Cold Point. Elwood Hartzell, 463 Cosgrove St., Philadelphia. *Limited Entries.*

New Jersey (C), June 23—North New Jersey Small-bore Championship, at Midvale. John Berger, 447 Kearney St., Paterson.

New York (C), June 23—Annual Spring Small-bore Tournament, at Breesport. Clyde T. Curren, 252 Home St., Elmira.

Oregon (B), June 23—Registered Pistol Tournament. John S. Altmanns, 405 N. Stanton St., Portland.

Vermont (C*), June 23—Fellows Gear Shaper Small-bore Tournament. Richard Wienka, R.F.D. #3, Springfield.

Wyoming (B), June 23—Wyoming State Dewar Tournament. Vance Leeper, Box 56, Douglas.

Florida (A), June 28, 29, 30—Southeastern Regional Pistol. John Harger, 1704 No. "A" Street, Tampa.

Texas (B), June 29, 30—21st Annual Texas State Small-bore Matches. John F. Callan, University of Texas Press, Austin.

Iowa (B), June 29, 30—Open Small-bore Rifle Tournament. G. G. Cooper, 816 Tele. Bldg., Des Moines.

Ohio (C), June 29, 30—Tusco 8th Annual Small-bore, at Uhrichsville. Carl E. Eichel, 123 East High Avenue, New Philadelphia. *Unclassified.*

New York (C), June 30—"Fathers' Day" Small-bore Rifle Match, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville. *Team Entries Only.*

Indiana (C), June 30—1st Annual Dunes Riflefest. Miss Waunelia S. Heise, 333 Warren Building, Michigan City.

Pennsylvania (C), June 30—Small-bore Rifle. James Musgrave, 452 Clay St., Rochester.

New York (Unregistered), June 30—Dutchess County Pistol Match. Claude Bodley, 87 Mansion St., Poughkeepsie.

Massachusetts (C), June 30—Annual Deerfield Valley Small-bore. Richard Bruffee, Shelburne Falls.

New York (C), June 30—Fourth Annual Finger Lakes Spring Rifle Tournament. Edward R. Burmeister, 703 White St., Canandaigua.

South Carolina (C), July 4—Small-bore Match. R. W. Poore, Jr., 113 Chandler, Greenville.

Virginia (A), July 5, 6, 7—Eastern Regional Pistol Tournament, at Quantico. CWO C. A. Brown, USMC, Rifle Range Detachment, Marine Barracks, Quantico.

Pennsylvania (A), July 5, 6, 7—Eastern Regional Rifle Tournament, at Altoona. R. B. Berry, 407 2nd Avenue, Altoona.

California (A), July 6, 7—Far Western Regional Rifle Tournament. J. E. Cornell, 662 Arden Avenue, Glendale.

California (Unregistered), July 7—Oakland Monthly Pistol Tournament. John H. Valergo, Jr., 3800 Cerrito Avenue, Oakland.

California (Unregistered), July 7—Southland Pistol Matches. R. S. Pease, Route 3, Box 84, San Diego.

Pennsylvania (C), July 13—Kittanning "All Night" Dewar Tournament. E. W. Cook, 926 Orr Avenue, Kittanning.

Texas (A), July 13, 14—S. W. Regional Pistol Matches, at Austin. John F. Callan, 405 East 30th St., Austin.

Michigan (B), July 13, 14—Michigan State Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Lewis A. Tyner, 1738 Dee, Wyandotte.

West Virginia (C), July 13, 14—4th Annual Open Small-bore Rifle Tournament. R. A. Simpson, 212 West 10th Street, Parkersburg.

New York (C), July 13, 14—Grumman "Hellcat" Trophy Small-bore Rifle Tournament, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

California (Unregistered), July 14—Bay District Small-bore Tournament. C. De Witt, 3701 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

Colorado (B), July 14—State Pistol Matches, at Englewood. L. F. Markle, 1006 Olive St., Denver.

Maryland (B), July 14—Md. State Small-bore Championship, at Frostburg. Mrs. James Ambrose, 615 E Street, Sparrows Point.

Washington (C), July 14—Buddy League Pistol Tournament. W. F. Day, Police Headquarters, Seattle.

Montana (C), July 14—21st Annual Northwest Small-bore Rifle Tournament. W. T. Matsen, 105 Pine Street, Anaconda.

Indiana (C), July 14—Small-bore Rifle Tournament, at Muncie. Hermann Schloen, Jr., Daleville.

California (A), July 19, 20, 21—Far Western Regional Pistol Tournament, at Lake Merced. Emile Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco.

Oklahoma (A), July 19, 20, 21—Southwestern Regional Rifle. B. N. Elliott, 1415 S. Oswego, Tulsa.

Pennsylvania (B), July 20, 21—Fort Hand Rifle Club Tournament. L. L. Reichenbaugh, 173 Lincoln Avenue, Vandergrift.

Massachusetts (Unregistered), July 20-28—United Services of New England Rifle and Pistol Tournament. Col. C. David Berg, 29 Fellsway East, Malden.

New York (C), July 21—Pistol Match, at Bethpage. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

Pennsylvania (C), July 21—Annual Philadelphia Area Mid-Summer Small-bore Tournament, at Cold Point. Gustave A. Irlenborn, 502 Lorraine Avenue, Oreland.

Montana (C), July 21—First Annual Judith River Small-bore. Warren C. Raitt, Utica. *Unclassified.*

Utah (B), July 22, 23—Intermountain Small-bore Rifle Tournament, at Fort Douglas. O. C. Haycock, 1870 Atkin Avenue, Salt Lake City.

North Carolina (A), July 25, 26, 27—Southeastern Regional Rifle. J. R. Holshouser, 900 Fairmont St., Greensboro.

Colorado (A), July 27, 28—Northwestern Regional Rifle Tournament. J. F. Schooley, 535 Simes Bldg., Denver.

Ohio (A), July 27, 28—North Central Regional Rifle, at Mt. Gilead. V. H. Swink, 412 W. 6th, Marysville.

Wisconsin (Unregistered), July 28—State High Power Matches. Oliver Moody, 5527 No. 35th Street, Milwaukee.

Pennsylvania (C), July 28—Outdoor Small-bore, at Chester. Mary Jane Oster, 2802 Township Line, Llanerch.

Michigan (C), July 28—Annual Midsummer Smallbore. A. J. Marxhausen, 2521 Thomas St., Flint.

TOURNAMENT REVIEWS

(Continued from page 44)

Firing a hot 2000 possible for the series of four matches, the Xavier High School Rifle Team #1 ran off with the Junior Club Postal Championship. The Xavier Team was five points in front of the second place Western High School of Detroit, Michigan. The always-to-be-reckoned-with Munhall High School of Munhall, Pennsylvania, dropped four of its five down points in the last match, for a third place 1995.

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The Marine Corps Western Division Rifle and Pistol Competition and San Diego Trophy Match were concluded April 27. Gunnery Sergeant J. K. Marshall took top honors in the individual rifle match, scoring 556 x 600. For Marshall this climaxed eight years of previous Marine Corps competition. Second-place gold medal went to Gunnery Sergeant L. A. Fields, a veteran of Bougainville from Waterman, Illinois, who fired 551. Fields was also awarded the Van Dyke Trophy, donated by the late Lt. Col. W. W. S. Van Dyke, III, USMC, which goes to the high tyro in Western Division rifle competition who has never fired in a division match. Individual pistol competition was won by WO F. J. Bergman, who scored 540 firing the National Match Course twice for record. MGy. Sgt. Marko G. Belovich, Mare Island, garnered second place honor with 532. The rifle team representing Service Command, Pacific, compiled an aggregate score of 1102x1200 to win the San Diego Trophy Match. Second-place team in this match was the Camp Pendleton, Calif., team with 1099.

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The team of the Papco Rifle Club won the New Jersey Garden State Rifle League for the 1945-46 season. In the last match of the league series the Ridgewood Rifle Club, of Ridgewood, New Jersey, beat the leading Papco team for the first time it has been beaten in over four years, to tie for second place with the Swiss Rifle Club Assn. In a shoot-off on a neutral range the Ridgewood team beat the Swiss Club to establish their right to second place in the final standings.

ORDER EARLY

Several times lately tournament sponsors have had a close call in getting the necessary match targets before tournament day. They ordered them "quite a while before required," but delivery was delayed until, once or twice, it looked as though the competitors might have to use the ace of spades in place of a ten-ring. Fortunately, the delivery man has always made it so far.

Here's the moral to our story. Order your targets as soon as you definitely know your tournament will be held. Official target manufacturers are doing everything possible to deliver supplies on time, but with the shortage of paper still such a problem, plus transportation difficulties which are always present, they must know your needs as far in advance as possible. Order your targets weeks—not days—in advance of when they will be needed.

DOPE BAG

Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher
Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose

THIS MONTH:

Selecting a Target Rifle · New Shotgun Load for Deer · German Military Rifles · Enfield Headspace · "Commercial" Handload Hazards · Army Opinions on Foreign Handguns · Stuck Bullets · Trade Dope

THE BEST TARGET RIFLES

Many letters like the following ask what to select as the best target rifle.

"I've seen more Winchester 52s than any other target rifle. I'd like to know what's wrong with the Remington Model 37, the Stevens Walnut Hill Model 417, the Savage Model 19, and others?—W. R.

Answer: The Remington Model 37 is a well-made rifle. One of the reasons you see more 52s than 37s is that the 52 is a much older name. Before the advent of the 37 in 1937, the 52 was practically the only commercial, top-notch, bolt-action target rifle in this country. During the early years, to many small bore shooters, a target rifle was a 52.

These fine target rifles are together at the top of the heap. A choice between the two will largely be based on personal taste. Some shooters prefer the Remington trigger which has no take-up and has a remarkably crisp let-off. Other shooters like a slight amount of take-up in the trigger. Some believe the 52 has somewhat smoother lines which gives it a slight edge in appearance. There are some differences in stock design but here again selection is dependent upon personal taste. Both rifles are widely used by the top-flight small bore shooters, and this evidence speaks for itself.

If you are making a choice between the Winchester 52 and the Remington 37, don't take anyone's word in the matter. Look at both rifles, feel them, try the trigger pull, and see which one appeals to you most. You can't go wrong with either rifle.

The Stevens Walnut Hill Model 417 is a good target rifle capable of as fine accuracy as the Winchester 52 or Remington 37. However, I have not found the Walnut Hill in the hands of as many top-notch target shooters. Perhaps one reason is that the style pattern is not as popular as others. After World War I, this country definitely went bolt-action minded and there is no denying that the bolt action lends itself to accuracy. Some well-known shots use the Walnut Hill.

If you do not want to pay the price for the best target models you might try the Savage Model 19 to which you refer. There are several models in this medium-price range which might be considered—the Remington 513T, Stevens 416-2, Winchester 75, and Mossberg 44US. Many of these rifles in the medium-price range are capable of accuracy comparable with the higher-priced rifles. However, they do not contain the workmanship or have the quality look of the 52 or 37, and your chances of getting a super accurate job are not as good as with the latter two models.

Rifles of any one model are not all the same when it comes to machine-rest accuracy results. From this standpoint, each rifle is an individual. The accuracy of a rifle depends to a great extent upon how the barrel and action in that particular rifle is bedded in the stock. I have seen high-priced rifles which would not shoot respectable groups until they were rebedded properly, so that there were no unbalanced lateral forces acting on the barrel or action. On the other hand, I have seen cheap rifles which would shoot as good groups as the best of the high-priced jobs. Many a rifle which had been shooting one-inch groups at 100 yards has become a scattergun when the stock warped. These same rifles could be rejuvenated merely by rebedding the action and barrel in the stock to relieve this warpage.

Some individual rifles perform best on certain brands of ammunition. You can determine what yours likes only by experiment. Selecting a gun and ammunition and making it perform is part of the fun of target shooting and is definitely part of the game because each rifle is different. No one can tell you definitely what to choose, but if you want a top-notch, small bore target rifle, I suggest you get either a Winchester 52 or Remington 37. If this is too much money don't give up—it would be good sport taking one of the lower-priced rifles and winning national matches with it. I feel sure it can be done.

There is one important point which I would like to impress upon you: Your target rifle is no better than your sights. Don't buy a rifle unless it will take the best iron sights made. You can't cut cost in this respect even if you are just getting started in the game because you need the confidence which I have found only the best sights can give you in the way of ruggedness and positive action.—E. B.

CONTROLLED PATTERNS

Ernest Wingert of Chambersburg, Pa., submitted a box of his "Controlled Spread Buckshot Load" for examination. Except for the attempt to join simultaneously fired cannon balls by chain, this is the first time we have seen the idea carried beyond the dreaming stage.

As shown in the photograph, eight balls of 00 buck size are joined by a tough cord and fitted into a heavy cardboard cylinder. As the cylinder is forced down the tube by the wad, it protects the cord from being friction-cut.

Using three Powell Chokes of .715 inch, .700 inch, and .687 inch size which approximated cylinder, modified, and full chokes, patterns were fired at 50 and 75 yards with the following results:

Cylinder Bore

50 yards . . . . 2.5 inch, 4.75 inch, 4.25 inch
75 yards . . . . 7.25 inch

Modified Choke

50 yards . . . . 8.5 inch, 7.5 inch, 16.5 inch
75 yards . . . . 5.5 inch

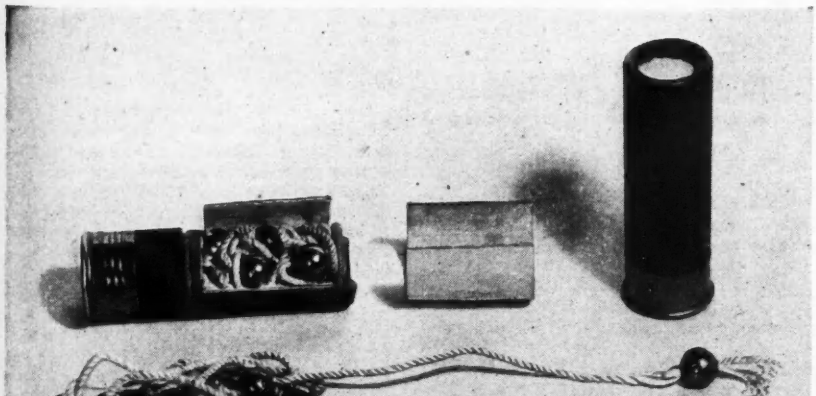
Full Choke

50 yards . . . 3.25 inch, 6.00 inch, 6.25 inch
75 yards . . . 5.25 inch

The string was cut on only one load which resulted in two balls being thrown 16 inches from a 4.5 inch group at 50 yards.

To further determine the effect of the cord, the patterns of loads fired without benefit of string linkage were measured. The absence of the string permitted the addition of another ball, making nine in all. Using all three chokes the loads were fired at three-by-three foot targets at 50 yards. In no case did more than five balls strike the nine square feet of paper. Those found were widely dispersed. Probably more suitable wadding behind the

Wingert's "Controlled Spread" buckshot load



shot would give better results when the cord is omitted, but that supposition hardly detracts from the deer hunting potentiality of Wingert custom loads.

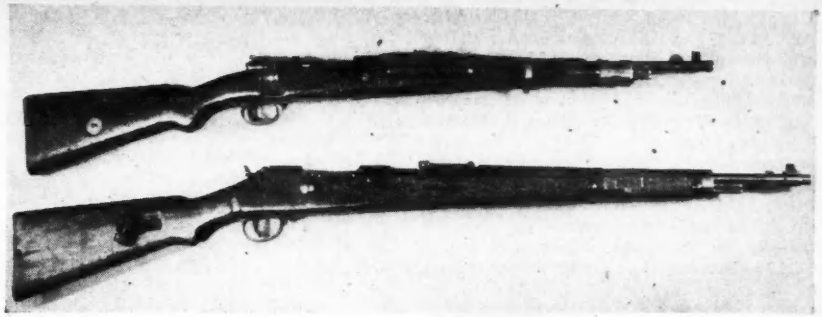
Penetration into seasoned pine at 50 yards averaged ¾ inch which, when combined with a murderous pattern the size of your hand, should make the load deadly on game where shotguns are in order.

In the manufacture of 180,000 shells Wingert has used home-developed tools which greatly speed-up his production. The shots are poured into a mold which accommodates the cord in grooves cut on the mold face. When cool, the shot may be slid and easily positioned on the 30-inch length of cord.—J. S. R.

IMPROVED SIDE SAFETY

That neat side safety for bolt-action rifles made by H. B. Anderson, Yakima, Washington, has now been improved. Instead of sending our Springfield with the original safety clear across the country for the latest version, Anderson told us how to improve the old one. This improvement works well and is more positive. The alteration was simple, merely locating a spring and ball plunger in the receiver behind the safety thumb lever. Small indents in the underside of the lever now insure positive location in the "on" and "off" positions.

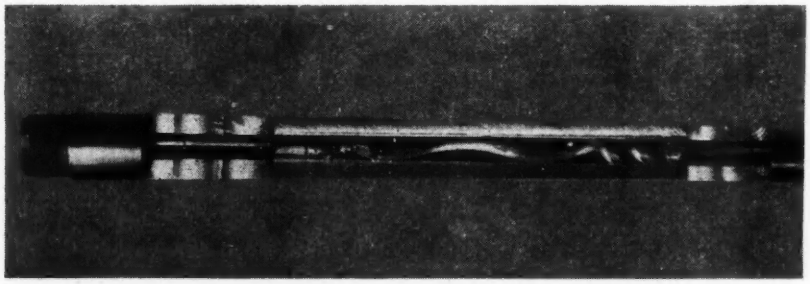
The improved version of the safety does not require these changes. It can also be furnished with a broad and more convenient thumb-piece very similar to the conventional shotgun safety, and it is operated in a similar manner. The bolt and sear are locked simultaneously. —A. H. B.



Upper: The short G 33/40, produced in Czechoslovakia by the Waffenwerke Brunn, A. G., at Brno. Lower: German military rifle G 98/40, made in Hungary at the Metallwaren Waffen u Machinenfabriken A. G. at Budapest.

rifle to a gunsmith ask him to check it for excessive head space and defects before he completes any work on it. This is something a gunsmith should do for his own protection. Some defects, however, are difficult to see and may be missed on the first inspection even by an experienced man.

If the rifle you receive is defective, contact the depot from which it was shipped. The DCM authorizes the sales of guns and ammunition to members of the NRA, but sale is actually made by the Army depots on authority from the Chief of Ordnance, War Department. It has been the policy of the Ordnance Department to make no adjustments on rifles which have been altered.



Winchester .348 barrel with stuck bullet and cleaning rod.

ENFIELD HEADSPACE

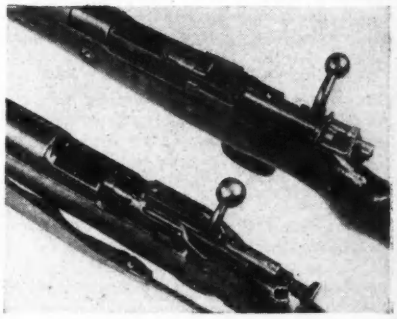
A correspondent refers to excessive head space found in an Enfield procured through the DCM:

"I suppose this rifle was checked for head space but the inspector must have been careless. A gunsmith checked the head space and found that it accepted a 1.950 gauge so you can see it is dangerous in its present condition. I have left the rifle there to have one thread removed and a new chamber made so it will be right."

Note: All rifles sold through the DCM are supposed to be checked and found to be in serviceable condition by a government depot. No system is perfect and it is always wise to check any rifle carefully with whatever facilities you have available. When you send your

The question of head space will probably come up often. The 1.950-inch gauge is used by the Army for testing in the field. In this test the bolt should not close on the gauge. I, therefore, believe the writer of this letter is justified in calling the head space of his rifle excessive. The rifles which are cleaned and repaired at an Army arsenal or depot are tested with a 1.946 "no-go" gauge and a 1.940 "go" gauge. It is, of course, best to have an Enfield within these latter specifications. I do not believe, however, that an Enfield rifle is dangerous with a head space up to 1.950 inches as the Enfield has an exceptionally strong action.

The Enfield actions made during World War I were considered a little sloppy on head space and some may be on the high side, although not necessarily excessively high.—E. B.



REMOVING STUCK BULLETS

Merton A. Robinson, well-known Ballistic Engineer of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, has a .348 barrel shown in the accompanying photograph that really is a curio. This gun was returned by a customer with the complaint that the toe of the stock was broken, the break occurring when he couldn't get a "cartridge" (?) out of the barrel.

The barrel was found to be plugged, and when sawed open it revealed a bullet stuck a couple of inches from the breech. A brass rod was wedged in beside the bullet and almost unbelievably curled and twisted by the hammering it had received in an attempt to dislodge the bullet.

The mistake was in trying to drive out the stuck bullet with a small-sized rod which was bound to become wedged. If a good solid piece of steel rod of nearly bore diameter and with a square end had been used, this stuck bullet could have been driven out with little difficulty and with no damage to the barrel.—J. S. H.

GERMAN MILITARY CONVERSIONS

"I have a German military rifle the bolt of which has the serial number stamped thereon. The receiver is stamped G98/40. I will appreciate any information you can give me on this rifle and the cartridge it handles."

Note: After the Germans started rolling across Europe the firearms manufacturing picture became somewhat confused. I believe, however, that the rifle you have is a model made in Hungary under German influence and is chambered for the German 7.92 mm. Model 98 military cartridge. (This same cartridge is also commonly referred to as the 8 mm. x 57.)

When the Germans moved into Hungary, they evidently took over the Hungarian military Model 35M manufacture and turned out

a conversion chambered for the German 7.92 mm. The German version used the Mauser staggered, box-type magazine rather than the rotating platform type characteristic of the Model 35M. In addition to this, the Germans made three other changes. The bolt handle was bent down, the bolt handle was flattened and knurled on the under side and the extractor groove for the G98/40 was cut less deeply than on the 35M. This difference in cut was necessary because the 8 mm. ammunition for the Hungarian Model 35M has a rimmed case while the German 7.92, of course, is rimless.

The 98/40 stock is a two-piece job joined just behind the receiver. The front sight is the inverted V-type dovetailed into the front sight band base. The rear sight is a leaf.

The serial number of your rifle should appear on the action as well as on the bolt and the last two figures of the serial number are usually found on the small metal parts. The bolt and action serial numbers should agree. If they don't, be sure you have the head space checked before firing the rifle.

There is another rifle, the G33/40, which was used by the Germans and is of Czech origin. In this instance, the Germans used the Czechoslovakian carbine which they redesignated G33/40. This rifle is also chambered for the 7.92 German military cartridge. It is much shorter than the G98/40. The over-all length is 39⅛ inches and the barrel is only 19⅜ inches long. Because of its shortness, it was used by special troops such as vehicle drivers and mountain troops. It is reported that some of these rifles were made with iron plates set on the left side of the stock just ahead of the butt plate to aid in mountain climbing.—E. B.

DANGEROUS HANDLOADS

A reader sent us the following message in regard to some dangerous handloads:

"Yesterday a man brought me a box of 8 mm. (7.9) reloaded cartridges. These cartridges are the most fouled up I have ever seen. The cases are of a mixed lot, some having been formed from '06 cases and some are standard German service cases that use the Berdan primers. The primers used are all the large military type of American manufacture and, in the German cases, protrude at least .007 inch beyond the head of the case.

"The bullets are Barnes 150-grain caliber .30 with a mighty poor job of reswaging to 7.9 mm. These bullets are seated so that the base is a good 3/16 inch below the shoulder. This brilliant reloader really has something when it comes to powder. He has taken the new ball-type powder from the caliber .30 M1 carbine cartridges and mixed it with who-knows-what sporting powder in about equal proportions and then filled these cases to the neck.

"My friend complained that these shells were kicking the daylights out of him and asked me to see what was wrong. I only found those things listed above, plus the fact that I honestly believe that these cartridges are a deadly load to the shooter.

"A word of warning from you, published in the RIFLEMAN might deter some of these ambitious reloaders from making the same mistake and wrecking a good gun and themselves."

THE ARMY LOOKS AT GERMAN HANDGUNS

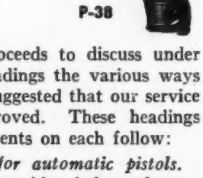
Last year the Army Ground Forces directed the former Infantry Board, now called A.G.F. Board No. 3, *to undertake a study to determine desirable military characteristics for an automatic pistol.* The report of the Board was rendered just about V-J Day, when such subjects were not being cleared for publication; but the "Restricted" classification has now been removed from the report and THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN has been authorized to present it for the benefit of the shooting public.

As is to be expected from the broad scope of its directive, the Board comments at some length on a number of subjects of great interest to pistol users, including, of course, the much-touted Walther P-38. It also makes quite a study of the question of caliber, and reaches the conclusion, with which all who served in the Western Pacific will agree most heartily, that nothing less powerful than the .45 will do.

In the preamble, under the heading *Factual Background,* the Board makes the following very sound statement:

"There is perhaps no other item of military equipment as subject to personal factors arising from the individual idiosyncrasies, capabilities, and prejudices of the user as the pistol or revolver.

"It is an unquestionable fact that only relatively few individuals to whom this weapon is issued are able to shoot it with even reasonable accuracy. The unskillful user is loath to believe that his lack of success is due to his own shortcomings, but will claim, and believe, that the weapon is no good. Any other weapon looks better to him than the one he has, and he is usually convinced that he would do much better if he were furnished a better pistol. He will usually wonder why he is afflicted with a weapon which he believes to be inferior to that used by others, especially by the enemy. The fact that he would have the same difficulty with any pistol of the necessary power rarely occurs to him unless he is given an actual opportunity to try the others. Such a trial usually brings disillusionment. In the absence of such personal trial, a feeling of rebellion against his own weapon and the purely esthetic form appeal of some other weapon will cause him to clamor for a change."

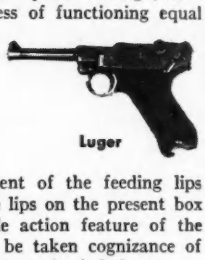

P-38

The Board then proceeds to discuss under separate numbered headings the various ways in which it has been suggested that our service pistol might be improved. These headings and the Board's comments on each follow:

(1) *Double action for automatic pistols.*

"The specific type considered for reference is the Walther Military Model 9 mm., referred to in German ordnance as the P-38. The cocking of the hammer by the trigger for the first shot (if the hammer is down) or for a repeated blow on the primer by the trigger controlled hammer presents an interesting and attractive mechanism. Undoubtedly, this type of mechanism will be a feature in postwar self-loading pistols if not from a standpoint of essentiality then from a standpoint of popular demand. There is no objection to this mechanism, provided it does not divert from the simplicity and relative positiveness of functioning of a military arm.

"The relative advantages of the trigger cocked Walther pistol may be over-emphasized. This feature alone does not warrant redesign of the Model 1911A1 pistol nor relegate this pistol to a lesser classification as a military weapon. There must be other advanced features to warrant 1911A1 pistol redesign, such as increased positiveness of functioning equal to that of the revolver, trigger actuated ejection of a defective cartridge and replacement in the chamber of a new cartridge, and improvement of the feeding lips to obviate the delicate lips on the present box magazine. The double action feature of the Walther pistol should be taken cognizance of for consideration in future pistol design.


Luger

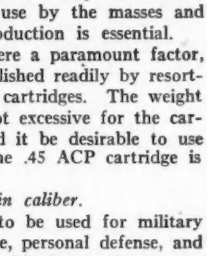
(2) *Improvement in balance.*

"The appeal of the sleek 'streamlined' Luger, features somewhat incorporated in the Walther Military Model P-38 is not to be discounted when looking at the 'boxlike appearing' M1911A1. Some pistol marksmen believe that the Luger is muzzle light, others find no such fault. Some feel the same way about the P-38. Likewise, the M1911A1 has its advocates, and otherwise, regarding the factor of balance. As a matter of fact, with loaded magazines, there is very little difference in the 'balance' of the P-38 and the M1911A1.

"For a *military weapon,* no comments are offered to improve the balance of the M1911A1.

(3) *Improvements in weight.*

"The reduction of weight is just one of the standing requirements for military weapons. However, some of the desired characteristics for accomplishment are contradictory and again the element of compromise for a military weapon for use by the masses and suitable for mass production is essential.


M-1911

"If weight alone were a paramount factor, this would be accomplished readily by resorting to lower-powered cartridges. The weight of the M1911A1 is not excessive for the cartridge used nor would it be desirable to use a lighter weapon if the .45 ACP cartridge is used.

(4) *Improvements in caliber.*

"In all hand-arms to be used for military purposes, police service, personal defense, and hunting, the prime requisite is stopping power. Because these arms have always been intended *for use at short range* and as emergency weapons, they must be capable of stopping an enemy instantly—dropping him in his tracks—and so shocking and paralyzing his muscular system as positively to stop further aggressiveness. Instances are numerous of wartime experiences where savage or fanatical enemies, often being hit in vital places with revolver bullets of insufficient stopping power, have continued to advance with a strength born of frenzy and desperation and were able to

inflict serious and even fatal injuries on their opponents before succumbing to their wounds. Stopping power is therefore of paramount importance if the magazine pistol and revolver are to be efficient for their intended purpose *as military and defense weapons.*

"The studies made in 1904 by Col. Thompson and Col. La Garde should be considered and the effectiveness of the large calibers must be recognized. The cartridges used in these tests were: 7.65 mm. and 9 mm. Lugers; .38 Cal. Colt Revolver Model of 1903; .38 Colt Automatic Pistol with both full-metal-jacketed and soft-point bullets; .45 Colt New Service Revolver chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge; the Colt New Service Revolver chambered for the .455 and .476 Webley cartridges.

"Increasing the stopping power of the bullet. The .45 ACP bullet ranks extremely high in relative stopping power. It greatly exceeds the famous 9 mm. Luger cartridge, also the 7.65 mm. Luger and 7.63 Mauser. The .45 ACP bullet's stopping power is about the same as for the .44 S&W Special, but is less than that of the .45 Colt New Service. *For stopping power and accuracy within pistol ranges, the standard .45 caliber ACP cartridge is decidedly adequate, hence there is no requirement for increasing the present caliber.*

Mauser 9 mm.

Reduction of caliber and the use of lighter cartridges offers a series of lighter pistols, a few of which are:

Pistol	*Caliber*	*Weight of Pistol (Ounces)*
(For comparison, M1911A1, .45 caliber Weight,39)		
Luger	9 mm.	30
Walther (P-38)	9 mm.	34
Beretta	9 mm. short (.380ACP)	23½
Nambu	8 mm.	30
Belgian Browning	9 mm. long	32
Light Colt automatics from 13 ounces upward		

However note the weights of the following weapons of less than .45 caliber

Mauser Automatic	7.63 mm. (.30 cal)	41
Colt Super .38	.38	39
S&W Magnum	.357 (8⅜" barrel)	47

"A recent development in the 9 mm. field is the Walther P-38 pistol. This is an excellent version of a military pistol and weighs thirty-four ounces, or five ounces less than the M1911A1. Its 9 mm. (Parabellum) is an excellent cartridge and has served well from a military standpoint in both pistols and submachine guns. It is obtainable in velocities of 1040 fs. and over. It has a lower trajectory than the .45 ACP cartridge. This 9 mm. (Parabellum) cartridge agreeably meets the views of individuals who believe the .45 ACP is 'too much cartridge.' However, the relative stopping power of the 9 mm. (Parabellum) bullet is rated at about one-half that of the .45 ACP cartridge. It is difficult to give up 50% relative stopping power for 13% less weight. *Stopping power is a paramount factor for a military pistol.* Former tests showed that the 9 mm. (Parabellum) bullet does not have the desired stopping power required of a military pistol.

"Complete cognizance is taken of the fact that, irrespective of any advantages of the existing .45 ACP cartridge, stocks on hand, machinery for production and other factors, if a cartridge of different caliber had such advantages as to warrant a change of pistol caliber, then a change of caliber should receive serious consideration. *A review of all foreign and domestic pistol and revolver cartridges failed to substantiate the existence of pistol or revolver cartridges of such characteristics as to warrant changing from the caliber .45 ACP cartridge.* Some have attractive advantages, but likewise serious disadvantages when considered from the broad viewpoint of military requirements for a pistol or revolver cartridge.

(5) *Improvement in size.*

"The over-all length of the M1911A1 pistol is 8.6 inches and it has a five-inch barrel. This over-all length is not excessive nor is the pistol unwieldy. For its power, caliber, and magazine capacity, the M1911 pistol is a very compact weapon. The Walther P-38 pistol has an over-all length of eight and one-half inches. The over-all length of the M1917 revolver is 10.8 inches.

From the standpoint of length, the M1911A1 is not excessive. Reduction of length so as to reduce distance between sights would not be desirable.

"The grip, for the average hand and to serve the purpose of a magazine receptacle, is not too large. In the case of individuals with very small hands (experienced frequently with southern Chinese), the grip of the M1911-A1 is too large. No change is suggested in the M1911A1 grip as again this would be fashioning a military weapon intended for the masses and for mass production to a limited class of individuals.

(6) *Improvement in accuracy.*

"The practical accuracy of a pistol or revolver is less dependent on the inherent accuracy of the weapon than upon the ability of the user. Viewed in this light, the performance of the .45 ACP cartridge from a military accuracy standpoint is adequate, and *the military accuracy* of production line M1911A1's is generally adequate. Very few men are sufficiently proficient to take full advantage of it. Considering the fact that the M1911A1 was not designed for use by the target marksman and likewise uses a cartridge not designed for target purposes, it sets a high standard of accuracy. While the

A modern shoulder-stocked pistol — the Japanese Nambu

accuracy of the production-line M1911A1 pistol is generally excelled by the military style weapon appearing in the form of the Colt National Match .45 and forms representing modifications by master gunsmiths, these latter weapons cannot be considered real military weapons from a standpoint of mass production for the masses. *However, they do demonstrate the splendid accuracy of the caliber .45 ACP cartridge.*

(7) *Other related items considered:*
Shoulder stocks for pistols and revolvers.

"The provision of shoulder stocks for pistols and revolvers has been a periodic practice since the introduction of these weapons.

S & W "Magnum"

A few shoulder stocked pistol and revolver adaptations since about 1900, or slightly before, are illustrated by the following weapons:

Luger
Mauser (7.63 mm.)
Foreign models of the Browning automatics
A former S&W long barrel revolver
Marble "Game Getter"
Some types of Stevens pistols
Colt caliber .45 Military Model of 1905 (This shoulder stock fitting was made from 1905 to 1911.)
M1911A1 and S&W .357 Magnum shoulder stock adaptations.

"Shoulder stocks for pistols and revolvers definitely improve ability to hit targets. However, by this attempted conversion of a pistol or revolver into a carbine, the real function of the pistol or revolver (a close combat weapon) is complicated and weight is increased. The shoulder stock Mauser pistol (7.63 mm.) is widely used in foreign countries for military and police work. This weapon, although somewhat highly popularized, is neither an effective pistol nor an effective carbine, although having some of the distinct advantages *and disadvantages* of both. However, it is an interesting weapon. This applies likewise to the popular Luger.

"The consideration of a shoulder stock for U. S. military pistols and revolvers is not recommended. When the character of the mission requires a weapon of a carbine type, then our carbine should be used and the relatively ineffective adaptations of a pistol or revolver for this purpose should not be attempted.

The Carbine, Caliber .30.

"The development of this weapon is an extremely fortunate event in the history of military arms, irrespective of its reported defects. It is a ballistically balanced weapon with an eighteen inch barrel, *called a carbine*—correctly or not—capable of true 'carbinization' through a reduction in barrel length and use of a folding stock to make it a 'holster' weapon. The .30 caliber 'carbine' cartridge (actually a rifle cartridge) is in a classification distinctly different from the pistol cartridges used in the 'submachine guns' and 'machine pistols' (7.63 mm., 9 mm., .45 ACP cartridges). This cartridge has possibilities in a version of the M2 'carbine' designed as a holster weapon for use by individuals requiring a more compact weapon than the standard 'carbine' and should have sufficient power to penetrate conventional types of body armor and helmets. Naturally, the normal initial reaction to a shortened weapon shooting this relatively very effective rifle cartridge will be objection to muzzle flash and blast, reduced velocity and similar factors. Irrespective of these negative qualities, the utility of a short version of the M2 carbine with a folding stock similar to the M1A1 carbine and a barrel length of *about* ten inches is indicated as a holster weapon. A requirement that a military pistol or revolver in addition to having required

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power in close combat should be able to penetrate body armor must be compromised. To penetrate the conventional helmets and body armor, pistol and revolver cartridges such as the 7.63 mm. Mauser, 7.65 Luger, possibly the 9 mm. Luger, Super .38 Colt automatic pistol, and the .357 Magnum are indicated. However, these cartridges represent questionable military shocking power. The pistols or the .357 Magnum revolver shooting these cartridges is an extremely poor all around substitute for the carbine or a short version of the "carbine" for an individual in contact with an enemy. The carbine is of only .30 caliber; however, the number of actual accurately deliverable bullets (semi or full automatic) appears to be the deciding factor regarding necessary shock to incapacitate an enemy.

The US carbine

Conclusions. The Board concludes:

"a. That the *double-action feature* of the Walther Military Model P-38 is a desirable feature of postwar pistols, but from a military standpoint, it does not warrant redesign of M1911A1 pistol.

"b. That 'balance' of the Model 1911A1 pistol, whereas not universally perfect considering various classes of shooters, any more than that of other weapons which are not custom made for the individual, is satisfactory from a military standpoint.

c. That the weight of thirty-nine ounces of the M1911A1 pistol is not excessive for a military pistol of the caliber and power of the M1911A1 pistol. For shooting the caliber .45 ACP cartridge a lesser weight is not desirable.

"d. That the caliber .45 ACP cartridge is a highly desirable military cartridge, unexcelled for military use by any other pistol cartridge considering even such cartridges as Luger 9 mm., .38 ACP cartridge for Colt Super .38 Automatic Pistol, 7.63 mm. Mauser, Caliber .357 Magnum and others of domestic and foreign manufacture.

"e. That the size of the M1911A1 pistol is not excessive for a military pistol. In fact, this pistol is an extremely compact weapon considering its power.

"f. That the accuracy of:

(1) The .45 ACP cartridge is decidedly adequate for practical military purposes.

(2) The issue M1911A1 is adequate for practical military purposes.

"g. That the ability to attach a shoulder stock to the military pistol is not a military requirement in a pistol and should not be so considered.

"h. That the development of a 'holster weapon' (in no way to influence the standard carbine issue and use) based on the M2 carbine equipped with an M1A1 Carbine style wire folding shoulder stock and a shortened barrel warrants research to provide a weapon of greater compactness than the present carbine, . . . greater effective range than the pistol and capable of penetrating conventional body armor.

"i. That in answer to the specific question presented in par. 1, AGF directive, *extract: That the Board undertake a study to determine desirable military characteristics for an automatic pistol* the following comments apply to a military pistol after the present stocks of M1911 and M1911A1 pistols require replacement:

"(1) Incorporation of the trigger cocking feature found in the Walther Military Model P-38, provided this does not lessen the simplicity and reliability of the M1911A1 pistol.

"(2) Incorporation of mechanism to eject manually and reload a misfired round by pulling the trigger, provided this does not materially lessen the simplicity and reliability of the M1911A1.

"(3) Retention of the M1911A1 features of balance, weight, caliber, size, and accuracy.

Recommendations. The Board recommends:

"a. That the trigger cocking feature be incorporated in military pistols at such time as other factors require a pistol redesign, but this trigger cocking feature alone be not considered as requiring or justifying pistol redesign.

"b. That research be conducted toward developing a pistol mechanism to eject manually and replace a defective cartridge by pulling the trigger.

"c. That the present caliber .45 be retained.

"d. That balance, weight, size, and accuracy of the M1911A1 be considered adequate.

"e. That a holster weapon based on the M2 Carbine, equipped with a wire folding stock, with shortened barrel, be developed for individuals requiring a weapon of greater compactness than the standard carbine, greater range than the pistol, and capable of penetrating body armor."

TRADE DOPE

L. G. Thomas, Shreveport, La., long known for his famous Thomas trigger made for the M52 Winchester, has set up shop again. With new equipment he plans to make more triggers which will include one developed for the M37 Remington rifle. Ten were made up several years ago and they have been fully tested according to Thomas. Although the triggers can be purchased "install it yourself," we are informed that even a very competent workman should follow installation instructions carefully, especially when fitting the M37 Remington trigger. Al Freeland of Rockford, Illinois, is a wholesale distributor for the Thomas trigger.

* * *

Smith's Gun Shop.—M. O. Smith, after spending some time as a Chaplain in the U. S. Army, is again rounding up gunsmithing equipment with which to open his shop in Polson, Montana. Some years ago Smith was known for his service of furnishing reformed cases for some of the most popular wildcat calibers. This service has been discontinued and he now plans to do general remodeling with new barrels, stocks, action refinements, and scope mounting, starting about June 1.

* * *

The Niedner Rifle Corporation has written that they must discontinue manufacture of the famous Niedner Rifle Barrel for an indefinite period of time. They hope to be able to resume production at some future date. At the same time they are concentrating on wholesaling and retailing of shooters' supplies and equipment. They say they have a fairly satisfactory stock of sights, scopes, and handloading supplies, with new shipments arriving every day. With the establishment of their hunters' outfitting department, they feel that before long they can provide the shooter and the hunter with any needed item.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

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9. "Outlawed" Firearms Defined: The sale of certain firearms is outlawed by Federal law unless handled by a Federally licensed dealer. These include machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks.*

10. Requesting Privilege of Examination: We *insist* that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C.O.D. with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

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FOR SALE

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY PURCHASEABLE antique firearms collections? Generous REWARD for productive information. James Serven, Santa Ana, California. tf

RELOADING LUBRICANTS: IPCO COLLOIDAL graphite ribbon wads $1.00 box; IPCO bullet lubricant $1.00 box. Special discount to dealers. Industrial Products Co. W. W. Perkins, Prop. Box 14, Wakefield, Mass. tf

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CASES, STANDARD, WILDCAT MADE FROM 30-06. Ackley 228, 256 Newton 8mm. 22-250, many others. Write for details. E. L. Jewett, 511 No. Workman, San Fernando, California 6-46

HOLSTERS, CARTRIDGE BELTS, KNIVES, telescopes, compasses, officers badges, sporting goods etc. FREE folder. Nassau Sales, Floral Park 3, N. Y. 7-46

ALWAYS A GOOD STOCK OF COLLECTORS arms and visitors always welcome. House of Guns, 34 Alpine Place, Arlington, N. J. 2-47

FIREARMS COLLECTION OF OLD AND modern handguns. All in top collectors condition. Approximately 300 guns offered including the scarce foreign arms. Complete lists 25¢ coin. Arthur D. Leidesdorf, Elberon, New Jersey. 6-46

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AMMUNITION—NEW AND USED "SHOTGUNS" —Rifles—Handarms." List 10¢. Dept. N. R. Rudolph's, Atchison, Kansas. 12-46

THE REVOLVER TIMING RECORD—A 10 inch RCA-Victor phonograph record. Practice timed and rapid fire anywhere, BY YOURSELF. Nothing to watch—just LISTEN. For Dry shooting, basement and outdoor ranges. One side 10 second timing, other side 20 second timing. Plays on any phonograph, $1.50 postpaid. The Original Sight Exchange, Box J, Paoli, Penna. 2-47

RIFLE BALLISTICS CHART: 17"X22", 86 POPULar loads. 50¢ (no stamps). W. Davison, Wagon Mound, N. Mex. tf

AMMUNITION .45-70-500 SMOKELESS. $1.64 per box. $8.00 per hundred. Packing charge 10¢ per box. No C.O.D. shipments. L. L. Bolin, Dept. R. 9 Grand St., South Amboy, N. J tf

LIST OF KENTUCKIES AND OTHER ANTIQUE Arms and accessories, 10¢. T. J. Cooper, R#1, Port Royal, Penna. 6-46

NOISE STOPPING SOFT WAXEN SLEEP-RITE earstoppers make better shooting, better sleeping, set 10¢. Free literature. Raymond Dow, 2922 16th St., Flushing 6, N. Y. tf

20 PAGE CATALOG, LISTING ANTIQUE FIREarms, edged weapons, cartridges, tools, parts, books and collectors items for 15¢. H. A. Brand, 1008 Ingalls Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. 7-46

ILLUSTRATED 172 PAGE CATALOG OF ANtique firearms and edged weapons 50¢. Robert Abels, 860 Lexington Ave., New York 21, New York. 1-47

REVOLVERS, MINERALS, STAMPS, COINS, glass, Indian relics, Catalog 5¢. Cowboy Lemly, Las Cruces, New Mexico. tf

LUGERS, 30-9MM. AND 380 PERFECT $65.00 each. Mauser, perfect $55.00. Colt automatics 32-380 -38-45 like new, $50.00 each. Browning 32 good $45.00. Krupp over & under top barrel 16 ga. full under barrel rifle 25-35 side safety lever opening good condition, $150.00. Frank Pugliese, 1757 South Broad St., Trenton 10, N. J. tf

RAISE TURKEYS THE NEW WAY. WRITE for free information explaining how to make up to $3000 in your own backyard. Address National Turkey Institute, Dept. 251, Columbus, Kansas. 7-46

SHOOTING M.L.'S. ANTIQUES. REASONABLE. Stamp. Hamilton, 1354 Norwood St., Chicago, 40, Illinois. 6-46

SAVAGE 19 HORNET, MATCH GRADE, 29S-B mounts, Lyman powder measure (new). Hensley 2 cavity mould, 500 primed cases, 500 unprimed, lot of bullets, Lyman 10 loading tool (new) excellent condition $80.00. Luger, DWM. 8", excellent $80.00. Luger 1940 good $60.00. Mauser 8mm. Commercial Sporter rifle, good $60.00. P .38, good $50.00. Colt S.A. 38 W.C.F. Lyman #3 tools and mound, 160 primed cases, $50.00. Walther PPK 32, case and extra clip, excellent $50.00. Colt .25 auto. Pearl grips, Audley clip holster excellent $45.00. Remington 14-35 cal. rifle, good Lyman tool (new) 30 factory loads. 100 empties, sling, $70.00. Luger barrel, short new, $15.00. Greifelt three barrel, 16 ga. 8mm. rifle barrel. A beauty 26" barrels. Engraved action, good $250.00. Wollensak 20X50 Varipower scope, good $25.00. Many other items. Wright's Gun and Tool Shop, Bloomsburg, Penna. tf

INVENTORS: WRITE FOR FREE BOOKLET explaining how you may secure greatest profit from your hunting, fishing or other sports inventions, patented or unpatented. Institute of American Inventors, Dept. 131, 1926 Eye St., N. W. Washington 6, D. C. tf

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, revolvers, ammunition outboard motors. Scaramuzzo, 601 South Halsted, Chicago 7. 3-47

EMPTY SHOTGUN SHELLS $3.50 PER THOUSand. Large gun list 10¢. Geo. Brullesauer, 3957A Castleman, St. Louis 10, Missouri. 12-46

NEW LIST MODERN AND OBSOLETE CARtridges. Stamp. Please. Kimball Arms Co., Woburn, Mass. tf

.38 COLT, PP, EXCELLENT, 4", SHELLS, $40.00. .25 Colt auto. v.g. $25.00. .25 Belgian auto. v.g. $25.00. 9mm. Luger, excellent, $60.00. P .38, excellent, holster, extra clip, $50.00. .45 Colt auto. v.g. holster, belt, clip case, $55.00. .380 Beretta, perfect, $35.00. .38 Special Belgian Frontier Colt, excellent, $25.00. .32 MAB auto. Belgian, v.g. $35.00. .32 Belgian Browning auto. excellent, $35.00. .22 Mauser rifle, excellent, $50.00. .32 Winchester auto, v.g. $50.00. .22 Hi-Power, Savage 99, v.g. case, tang sight, $75.00. Thomas J. Higgins, 25 South Main St., Port Chester, N. Y.

MALLARD DECOYS LIFE SIZE LIGHTWEIGHT, Kapok fiber covered very durable resembles actual live duck. Val. $25.00 per dozen, Special $13.50 dozen. Forward money with order. No C.O.D. shipments. Public Sports Shops, Dept. R-75, 13 South 16th St., Philadelphia, Penna.

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GERMAN SNIPER SCOPES, NEW, STANDARD graticule, 30mm. Internal windage and elevation, no mounts, $35.00. Victory Sporting Goods, Cle Elum, Washington. 6-46

732

IN 1 ISSUE

That many classified ads in the April issue should indicate plenty of folks have positive knowledge "The Arms Chest" **produces results.**

If you have something to sell, to buy or trade, send us your own ad for the August issue—to reach us **not later than July 5th.**

Full instructions, above.

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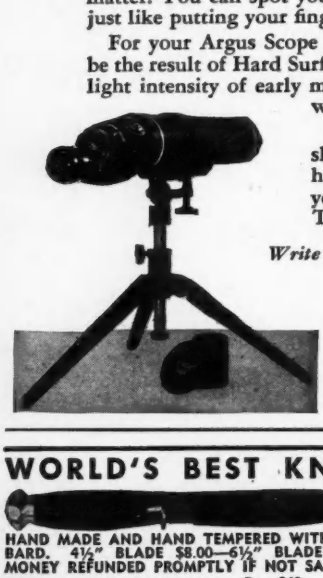

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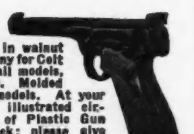

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1307 Olympic Blvd. Montebello, Calif.

NEW SCOPES, MOUNTS, GUNS, RELOADING tools, powder, bullets. Catalog 30¢. Louis Ringuette, Grants Pass, Oregon. 7-46

FREE LIST OF ANTIQUE & MODERN PISTOLS, revolvers, muskets and rifles, gun parts, powder flasks, cartridges, swords, daggers, relic machine guns, military head gear and uniforms; enemy insignia, medals, relics, etc. Military prints and books, armor, our big illustrated catalog will be ready soon, 50¢ a copy postpaid. Swiss Vetterli 41 r.f. good $14.50. Nazi Mauser, excellent condition as issued, $37.50. Jap rifle, fair condition, $24.50. Box of 40-72 Winchester cartridges, $1.25. Thomas Woroniecki, Bellport, N. Y.

HI-STANDARD "C" EXCELLENT IN, 500 shorts, $45.00. H&R 7 shot, .22 revolver excellent in, model, .22 special $30.00. Benjamin BB, air rifle, single shot v.g. $15.00. Pneumatic. Joe Bell, Darlington, Wisconsin.

.303 BRITISH ENFIELD, CUT DOWN STOCK 20" barrel, ammunition, good $30.00. Fred A. Petrik, 710 Madison St., Topeka, Kansas.

WINCHESTER 12, 12 GA. 30" FULL, 2 BOXES, $62.00. Savage 99, .30-30 like new, $75.00. Apache gun, antique, $25.00 or Colt Police Positive 6" .38 S&W. R. W. Winstead, Natchitoches, Louisiana.

GERMAN SCHUETZEN, CHAMBERED 32-40, v.g., no sights, $80.00. N. Michelson, 2001 Devonshire, Lansing, Michigan.

23D SAVAGE HORNET, 29S WEAVER SCOPE, tapered post, Stith mount, 1¼" sling, very good, 100 factory cartridges, $80.00. L. W. Hickel, Box 235, Harlowton, Montana.

LARGE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN AND European Antique Arms. Send 25¢ in coin for our 13th edition catalog. We buy whole collections or single pieces. Fair prices paid. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf.

PERFECT NEW WALTHER P .38 $60.00. J. Penhallegon, 7003 No. Wolcott, Chicago, Illinois.

AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS! WRITE FOR details! First 500 acknowledged!! 30-06 Winchester 54, 30-06 and few cartridges, shot about 300 times. Accurate, fair out, very good in, $75.00. Shootingmaster .45 auto. with gadgets near excellent, $80.00. 10X Super Targetspot, excellent, $70.00. Jordan 348, .45 auto. rim dies, 30-06 trimmer. Ideal lubricator, sizer .35, 452 punches, dies, lubricant. Wilson Universal case trimmer; 30-06 neck and primer reamers. B&M powder measure. Moulds .348, .45 Keith. 2 big and little melting pots & dippers. .348 Gaschecks, 2½ Remington primers, auto. rim .348, brass, tin, lead &c. Priced on request! Wish: Woodsman M. T.; Remington 720S .270, .257. Life N.R.A. Fred Prager, 10 Ranch, Garrett, Wyoming.

HENRY TROEMER PRESCRIPTION BALANCE excellent condition $25.00. E. Eugene Hungerford, 2454 New Street, Blue Island, Illinois.

PRIMERS: NMNC 6½ SMALL RIFLE, THOUSand $10.00. 1½ small pistol, thousand $7.50. Ratliff, Hillyard, Washington. 7-46

30-06 F.A. ARSENAL, 1935 CARTRIDGES, FULL patch, $7.50 per 100. 30-06 Winchester, pointed, full patch, staynless, non-mercuric, cartridges, $10.00 per 100. .38 Special factory load, 158 grain, $3.75 per 100. 351 Remington soft point, S.L. cartridges, $7.50 per 100. 25-35 Rifle cartridges, Kleanbore, soft point, $7.50 per 100. .38 caliber Rim fire revolver cartridges, $2.00 per 100. 30-30 rifle cartridges Remington Kleanbore, soft point, $7.50 per 100. .32 Remington soft point rifle cartridges, $7.50 per 100. .38 Special gallery cartridges, Winchester, black powder, $2.00 per 100. 45-70 blank cartridges, Winchester make, center fire, $4.00 per 100. 30-40 blank cartridges, late issue factory, $11.01 per 100. Forward money with order. No C.O.D. shipments. Public Sport Shops, Dept. R75, 13 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

SPRINGFIELD SPORTER PLAIN G&H CONVERsion low number, new star gauged barrel, ramp front 48 rear, recoil pad, $135.00. Winchester 70 target HB perfect inside $125.00. J. A. L. Moller, 15 East 26th St., New York City.

FOUR MODEL 94 W.C.F. CARBINES, PERFECT, $45.00 each, four more used for guard duty, unfired, excellent, $35.00 each. W. Emmett Hall, Good Hope, Louisiana.

PARKER A.A.H.E. 12 GAUGE, EXCELLENT, 32", mod-full. Circassian walnut stock, finely checkered. 14¼x1⅜x1¾. Solid gold grip cap. Well rounded comb. No safety. Recoil pad, leather case, fair, $375.00. Certified check. G. L. Van Saun, 162 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

DETECTIVE SPECIAL, PERFECT, TWO HOLsters, $55.00. .38 Colt Lightning model, 2½ barrel, finish good, barrel and mechanism very good $20.00. .177 cal. Zenit air pistol, excellent, 2000 pellets, $20.00. F. F. Rosselot, Garden Grove, California.

WINCHESTER MODEL 70, 30-06, NOSKE 2½ scope on Redfield mounts, Tilden safety, sling, excellent in, good out, $140.00, some ammunition. Winchester model 62 .22 long rifle, 330 Weaver Lee Dot scope, very good in, fair out, $50.00. Stevens model 39A bolt action tubular magazine .410 shotgun, 20 shells, excellent in, good out, $15.00. Max Melsheimer, Rt. #2, Box 681, Escondido, California.

SAUER M38 7.65MM. NEW NEVER FIRED HOLster extra magazine. W. M. Shepperd, 259 Pennsylvania Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky.

B&L DRAWTUBE, OK, $40.00. COLT .45, NS, very good, $50.00. Tryon, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y.

NEW HENSOLDT DIALYTAN 4X HUNTING scopes, bought from Hensoldt factory at Herborn, $50.00 each. Arthur Jones, 305 North Third St., Dubois, Penna. Phone 183-R.

MARINE TRENCH KNIVES WITH SCABBARD reduced to $3.00 postpaid used Weaver 330, post, $18.50. New Weavers 2.5 postpaid $34.50. Money back guarantee. Clark, Mildred, Mont.

8MM. MAUSER MODEL 98 MILITARY RIFLE, turn down bolt, 23" barrel, sling, out very good bore good, $40.00. 39A Marlin .22, 29S Weaver scope, B mounts, cheekpiece stock, sling, very good, $85.00. Ken Meyer, Bellmont, Illinois.

MODEL 71 WINCHESTER DELUXE, 24" barrel, Weaver 330, Lee Dot, Stith mounts, 4 boxes ammunition, very good or better, $125.00. US model 1866 Springfield good $19.50. Harrington Richardson Sportsman .22 revolver excellent, $30.00. R. L. Greiser, 228 Main, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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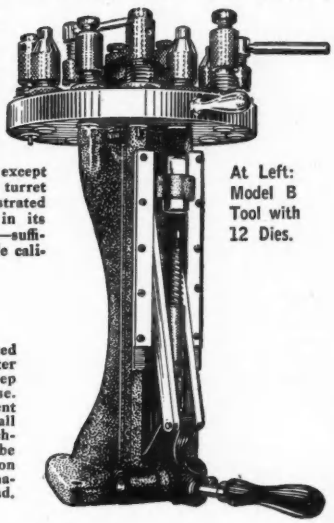

At Left: Model B Tool with 12 Dies.

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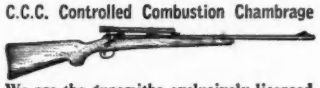

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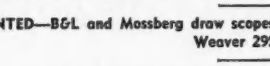

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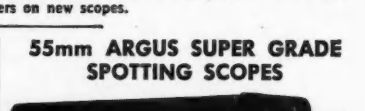

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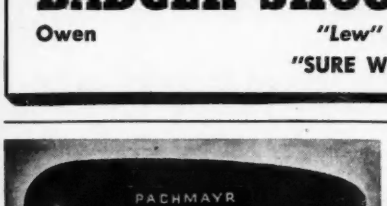

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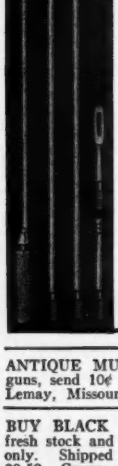

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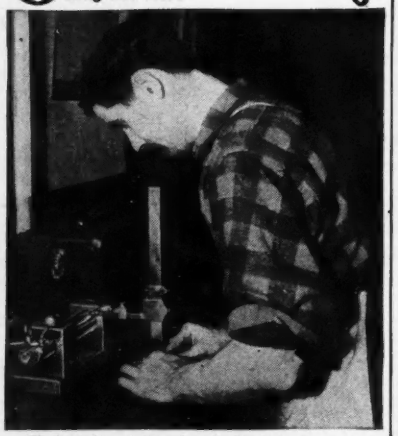

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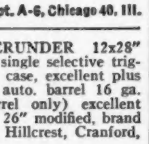

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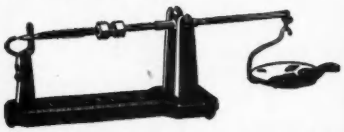

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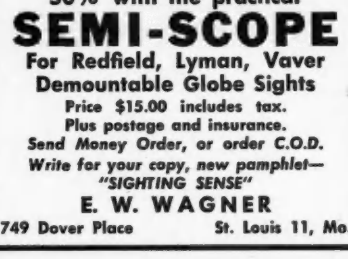

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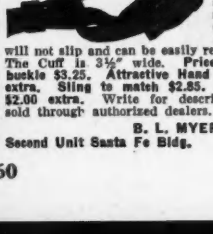

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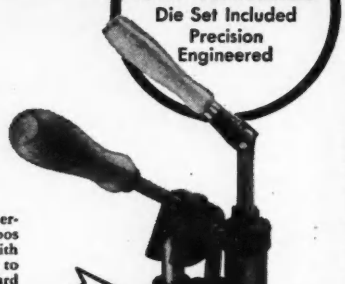

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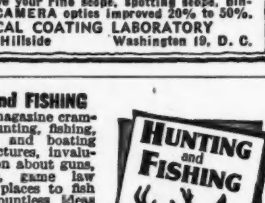

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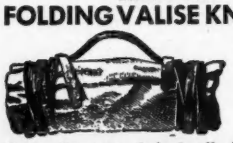

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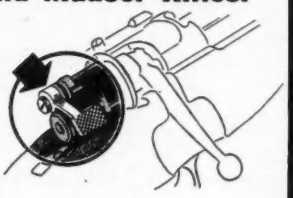

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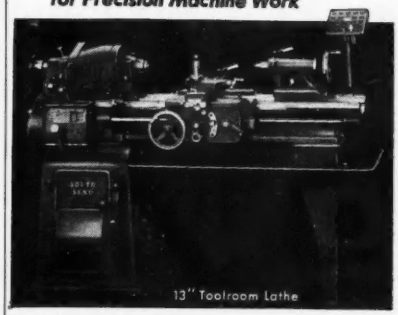

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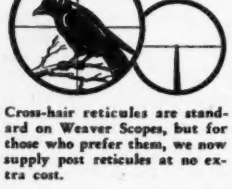

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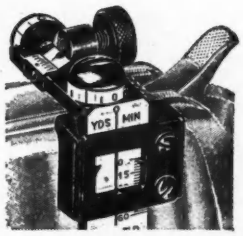

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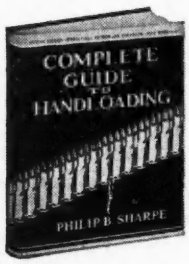

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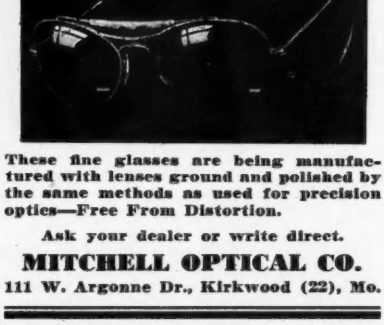

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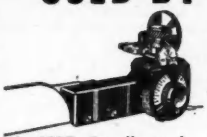

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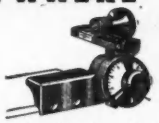

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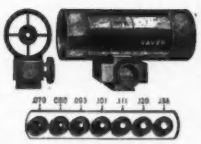

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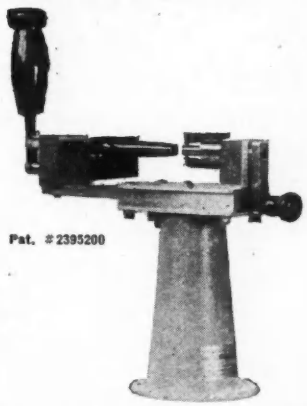

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WALTHER .22 TARGET AUTOMATIC PISTOL, please give full description. Amundsen, 316 E. 7th St., Plainfield, N. J.

HORNET OR 2R RIFLE, ALSO TOOLS & AMmunition, 25-20 S.S. cases, Winchester 61. W. Schwarz, 144 Jefferson St., Albany, N. Y.

7X64MM. COMMERCIAL AMMUNITION, .25 Jap ammunition, reasonable. J. M. Lawson, M.D., Harris Clinic, Fort Worth, Texas.

WINCHESTER OR WESTERN SUPER SPEED 16 gauge shotgun shells in 2¾" length, loaded with 3¼ drams powder 1⅛ ounces number 6 or 5 chilled shot. Don Hopkins, 806 Old National Bldg., Spokane 8, Washington.

.22 CALIBER BALLARD WITH SET TRIGGERS, 10 x 50 Ajack scope. John Hayduk, Mt. Union, Penna.

10 GAUGE SHOTGUN IN GOOD CONDITION with steelbarrels, no Damascus barrels, state length bore and drop. Fred Hollender, 245 Canal St., New York City.

EARLY MODEL AUTOMATICS WANTED: Schonberger; Mannlicher; Schwartzlose; Charola-Unitua; Maxim; Mars; Grant Hammond; Dreyse and Roth-Fommer. Will pay fair price for items in excellent or very good condition. Write or wire collect. Dr. T. R. White, 511 Brookside Ave., Redlands, California.

.41 REMINGTON, COLT DERRINGERS, ALSO other Derringer pistols, freaks, oddities. Robert Abels, 860 Lexington Ave., New York 21. 1-47

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★ ★ ★ RIFLE BARRELS ★ ★ ★

BLANKS FOR GUNSMITHS

As this ad goes in, the latter part of April, I have just finished a 4 weeks' run on 22 caliber barrels and filled all orders in this caliber. Now changing over to 25 caliber. Looks like 3 or 4 weeks' run to clean up these orders. Then will have to change over to 270 and 30, as I am cleaned out on these too. Last time I was on 270 caliber it took 2 weeks' run to clean up; next time will probably take longer. Then figure about ten days on 30 caliber. All this will take until around latter part of June. 22 caliber orders will be stacked for 6 to 8 weeks back; will also be out of 25's and 270's by that time.

From this you can see that delivery on any particular order is a hit or miss proposition. You may have to wait as long as 6 to 8 weeks. I am doing all I can to minimize delay by working long hours. Don't ask for long barrels or special twists now.

We do no re-boring, re-lining, barrel fitting or stocking.

EUREKA J. R. BUHMILLER MONTANA

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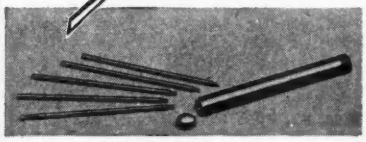

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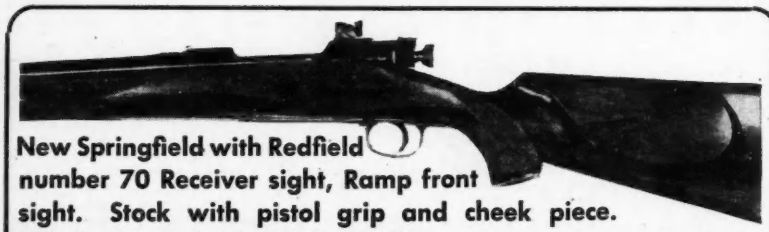

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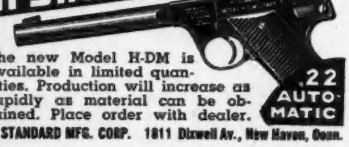

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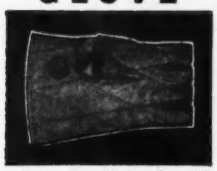

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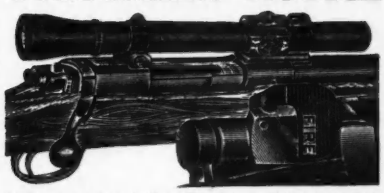

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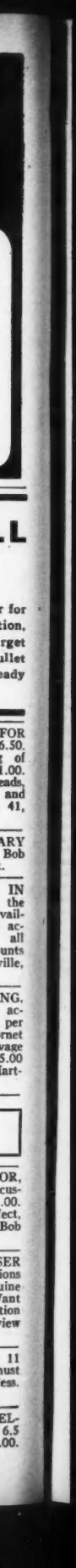
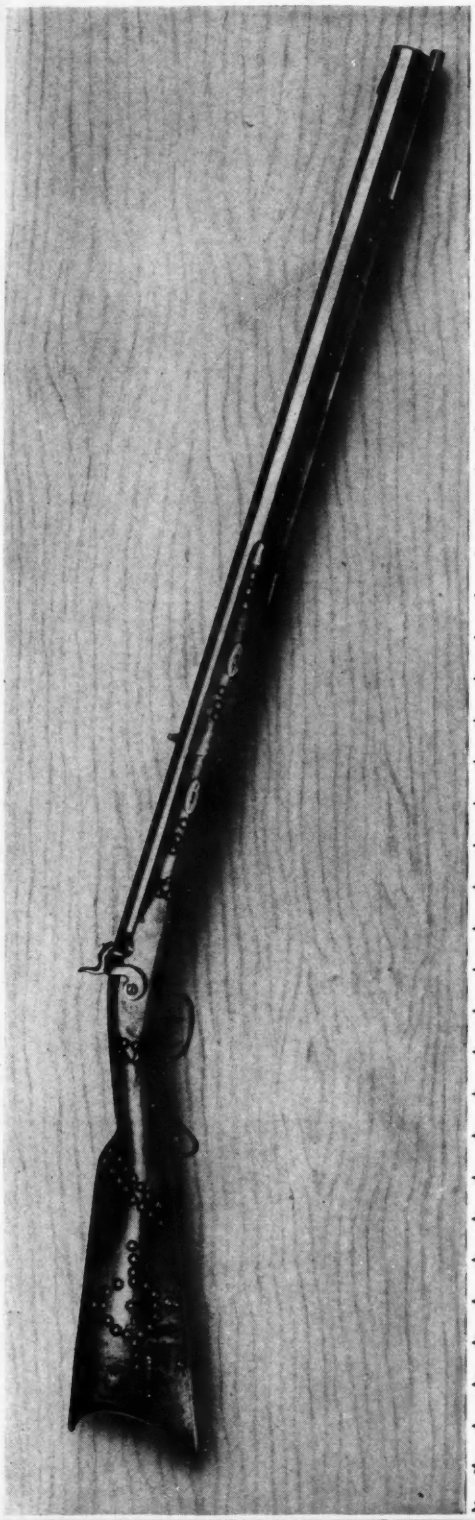
WANTED — GENUINE SPORTING MAUSER Magnum and short actions or rifles. Prefers actions with double set triggers. Only possessors of Genuine Mausers need reply. NO MILITARIES. Want 6.5x57 to above specifications. Price and condition first letter. A. P. McCloskey, 461 South Fairview St., Lock Haven, Penna.

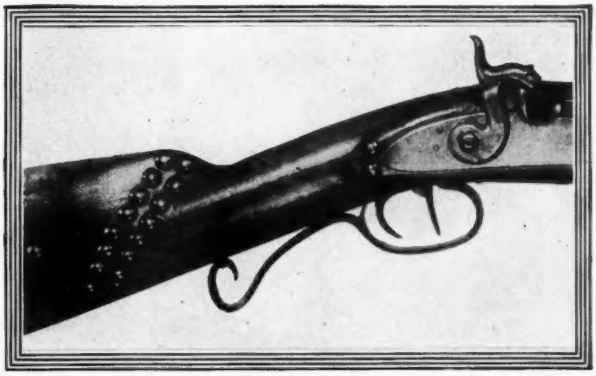
TRADE—ENGLISH SETTER PURE-BRED 11 months female for shotgun over-under or double must be in good condition, gauge 12-20 hammerless. E. W. Postle, Hillsboro, Ohio.

FOR SALE—L. C. SMITH FIELD, 12, EXCELlent, 26" I.C.&M., $69.50 case extra. Italian 6.5 Military Rifle, perfect—right from factory, $30.00. B. Kridle, 3507 Baring St., Phila., Penna.





Grand Old Favorites



SAM HAWKEN'S PLAINS RIFLE

This plains rifle was made in St. Louis by Samuel Hawken, the best-known Western gunsmith of the 1840-60 period. The Sam Hawken rifle, used by buffalo hunters and trappers in the West, was a handmade percussion-type muzzleloader with superimposed under-barrel support to increase accuracy. Brass tacks were put in the wood by many plainsmen, mostly for decoration. The Sam Hawken rifle, from the collection of Philip Medicus, measures 47" overall, with 32½" octagonal rifled barrel, about .64 caliber. This gun has a double-set trigger, and has a half stock which is wedge-fast.

The Sam Hawken rifle and Du Pont Sporting Powders proved to be a favorite "twosome" with the Western settler. Gun and Du Pont Powder aided early Americans in their constant struggle for food and protection.

Help protect game . . . and support your national and local organizations for game conservation and restoration.

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FROM NOW ON, YOU OWN HALF OF MY MODEL 52

RIFLES: In main illustration, Winchester Model 52 Standard Target Rifle with Vaver sights. Other sight combinations are available. At left, the Winchester Model 75 for shooters who want a dependably accurate small bore rifle at a moderate price. Always use Winchester EZXS or Leader 22 cartridges.

"When I suggested that you take up target shooting, I never dreamed you'd move into the ten ring so fast.

"You've earned a gun of your own and we'll go downtown tomorrow and pick it out—as your June wedding anniversary present. This Winchester Model 52 of mine is the world's finest target rifle. But, I want you to look at the Model 75. It's a little lighter than my Model 52 but it has Winchester accuracy, quality, safety and workmanship. Winchester Repeating Arms Company, New Haven, Conn., Division of Olin Industries, Inc.

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SALVAGE LEAD

Clean out your "backstops" and *sell the scrap lead to your local scrap metal dealer.* That will help everybody because today, supplies of lead are so short that cartridge production must be curtailed.

WINCHESTER
TRADE MARK

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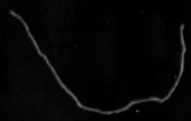
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